Iraq: Isolation of U.S., a Tangible Reality

BAGHDAD — Iraq on Wednesday basked in its "defeat" of the United States by flouting a U.S.-patrolled exclusion zone to send helicopters to fly home Muslim pilgrims from the Saudi border.

"The isolation of the United states is now a tangible reality," said the ruling Baath Party's newspaper *Ath-Thawra*.

The helicopters flown to southern Iraq since Monday in defiance of the western-imposed "no-fly" zone, meanwhile, waited to fly back the pilgrims returning from Mecca in Saudi Arabia, journalists at the scene said.

(Contd on Pg. 10)



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Army Destroys Home of Hamas Member in West Bank Town

AL-KHALIL, West Bank — An Israeli Army bulldozer demolished on Wednesday the home of a member of Hamas in the town of Surif.

The home of Jamal Abed al-Hur, 28, was the third house destroyed over the past week in this town.

Residents threw stones at the Israeli Army team sent to demolish the house, but the clashes were limited as most of the town's inhabitants were kept in their homes by a strict curfew imposed on Surif at dawn, witnesses said.

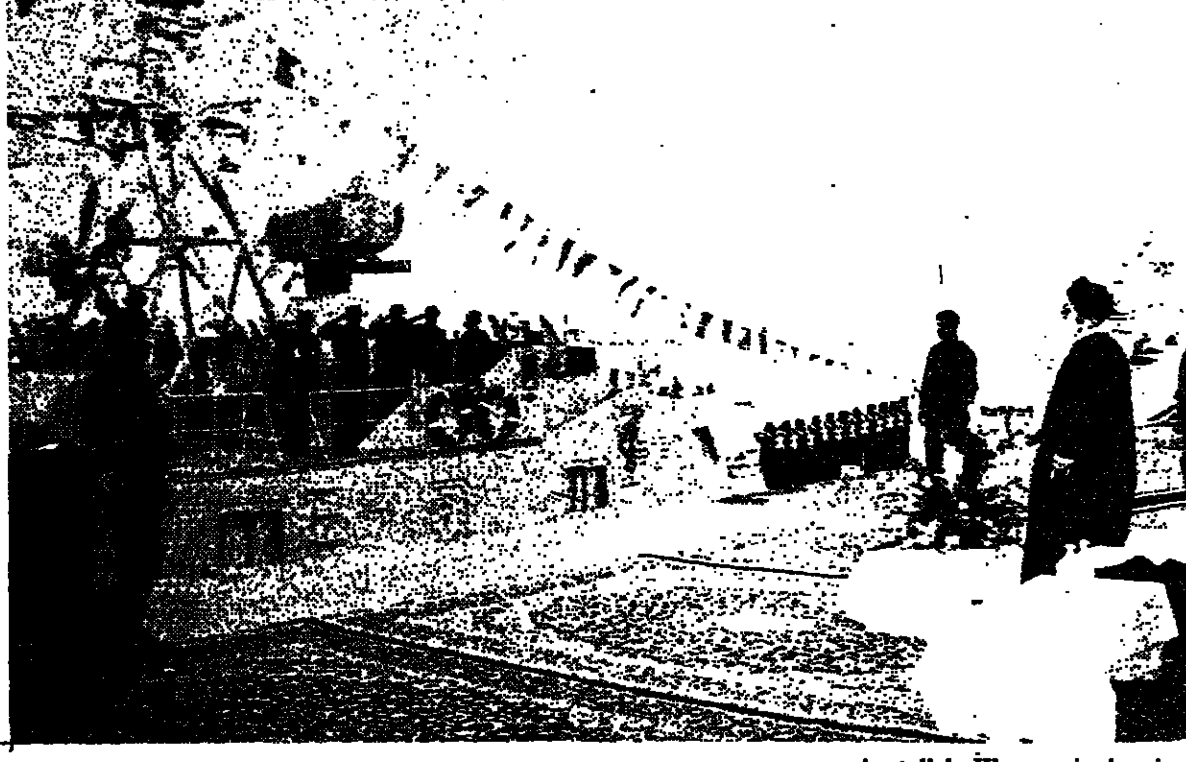
(Contd on Pg. 10)

2nd Stage of Tariq-ul-Qods Maneuvers Launched

BANDAR ABBAS, Hormuzgan Prov. — The second stage of the amphibious maneuvers code-named 'Tariq-ul-Qods' was launched here Wednesday in the presence of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

The vessels of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) paraded before the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf waters.

More than 200 vessels of various types are involved in the war games, the first stage of which was launched Tuesday evening.



Meanwhile, 10 IRGC vessels were launched here Tuesday evening in the presence of the Supreme Leader.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces was officially welcomed at the First Naval Base, in this southern port city, by senior IRGC commanders engaged in the 3-day maneuvers.

IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezaei and commanders of ground, air, naval and Basij (volunteer) forces of the corps briefed the Supreme Leader on the features of the war games.

The Leader also inspected the 'Qadr' missile launching vessel where he was briefed on the vessel's military and defense capabilities and features.

Ayatollah Khamenei also inspected an exhibition of the IRGC Naval Forces displaying its achievements in the areas of research and self-sufficiency including missile projects.

Over 300 reporters, photographers and film crew are here to cover the Leader's visit to southern Iran and the war games.

The prefatory operations to amphibious war-games code-named 'Tariq-ul-Qods' started in the presence of the visiting Leader of the Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed-Ali Khamenei, simultaneously in four provinces of Hormuzgan, Bushehr, Khuzestan and Kermanshah on Tuesday.

200,000 Marines and Ground Force personnel of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Basij forces are participating in war-games. The maneuvers will be performed along 2,000 kilometers of the western and southern borders of Iran peculiar for many of its features.

The maneuvers are intended to test and demonstrate the combat readiness of the Iranian forces on land, air and sea.

The 'Tariq-ul-Qods' maneuvers are planned as defensive and deterrent operations.

During the three days of the maneuvers, scores of various weapons as well as boats and naval equipment will be tested for their performance.

Commander of IRGC General Mohsen Rezaei said here Tuesday that the idea of the war-games is to test the capacity of the IRGC to push back two hypothetically simultaneous incursions against the Islamic Republic of Iran at geographically remote points of the country.

He said the war-games would also boost the morale of the Armed Forces of Iran. *(IRNA)*

Majlis Resolution Against Germany

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) adopted on Wednesday a resolution against Germany, calling on the government to retaliate future actions by Bonn.

In a letter signed by around 135 deputies, the Majlis representatives blamed their German counterparts for baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Bundestag's "hasty move

(Contd on Pg. 10)

China, Russia Sign Joint Statement on New World Order

MOSCOW — Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday signed a joint statement on their vision of a new world order.

The declaration, signed in the Kremlin, advocates a multi-polar world and the creation of a new international order and includes a veiled attack against the growing power of the United States.

"This statement is a weighty declaration by the two world powers in favor of creating a multi-polar world based on equal cooperation," the document said.

"Both sides stand for the establishment of a new and universally applicable security concept, believing that Cold War mentality must be abandoned and bloc politics opposed," it added.

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Massive Participation in Elections, Main Concern



By Ali Rezvani Moqaddam

MECCA — The most important factor in the upcoming elections is the massive and informed participation of the people, said a prominent Muslim cleric and Majlis representative, Hojjatoleslam Dorri Najaf Abadi, in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*.

Fortunately, Iranians have shown their massive presence again and again on different occasions. They enjoy high political awareness and mentality. They are concerned with international and domestic affairs, and make appropriate decisions, he said.

He added that eighteen elections had been held during the past two decades, six of which were presidential elections. Past experience shows that the people have performed their duty in the best way.

During Muharram and Ashura, Iranians who are honored to devote their lives to Imam Hussain (AS), will take part in the elections once again, contrary to the malicious propa-

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Hostage Crisis Ends in Peru

LIMA — President Alberto Fujimori, basking in international acclaim Wednesday, celebrated the dramatic end of the 18-week hostage standoff, saying it showed Peru would "never cave in" to terrorism.

The crisis ended Tuesday with a bold commando attack by Peruvian troops on the Japanese ambassador's residence that left 17 people dead but freed 71 prominent captives.

The daylight raid resulted in the deaths of one of the hostages, two members of the security forces and all 14 hostage-takers.

Fujimori celebrated his spectacular victory over the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels by dining late Tuesday with top officials at a restaurant in the Posh San Isidro district where the hostage crisis evolved.

"Peru will never cave in to

(Contd on Pg. 10)



LIMA, Peru (April 22): Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori (upper right) leads former hostages to waiting buses at the compound of the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima. Fujimori announced during an evening press conference April 22 that one hostage, a judge in the Peruvian Supreme Court, was killed in the operation to free the 72 hostages.

(AFP PHOTO)

Commonalties Call For Expansion of Iran-India Ties

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI — Cultural, intellectual and historical commonalties call for close ties between Iran and India, Iran's Cultural Counsellor to India, Seyed Mohsen Miri, said in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*.



MIRI

Elaborating on cultural and historical relations between Iran and India, he said that with the advent of Islam to Iran, a close connection was created between Islam and the Farsi language. When Farsi became the court language in India, Iran-India relations became intertwined, he said.

Islam entered India through Iranian mystics, poets and artists, he said, adding, therefore, India's cognition of Islam is through Iran and Persian language.

Farsi became India's official

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Congratulation and Holiday Notice

April 26 marks the Eid-ul-Ghadir, the day Prophet Mohammad (S), on his way back from Mecca, collected the people and appointed Imam Ali (AS) his successor. The *Tehran Times* staff congratulate Muslims throughout the world on the auspicious occasion. Four-page special issue on Al-Ghadir event is inside.

Our next issue will appear on April 27.

Editor



International Seminar on Polymer Science & Technology

See Page 6



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In the Name of God

Allah has promised the hypocritical men and the hypocritical women and the unbelievers the fire of hell to abide therein; it is enough for them; and Allah has cursed them and they shall have lasting punishment.

(HOLY QORAN) (9:68)



Book Reading in Iran

The 10th International Book Fair will open in Tehran on April 26, an event pulling a huge number of book-lovers and scholars.

The book fair is an appropriate occasion to attend problems related to book—writing, reading and publishing—in our country.

According to official statistics, the number of books published in 1996-97 shows an 18.5 percent increase compared to 1994-95. The figures are encouraging, for they indicate that the demand and supply have both increased.

Indeed book is a firm medium for education. In today's world education—formal and informal—is a solid foundation for people' awareness and the country's prosperity.

Our officials should encourage book reading and provide facilities for easy access to the latest books published not only in Iran but also in other parts of the world.

Although the number of books published in Iran has increased over the past few years, the fact is that book reading has not yet become a distinguished part of our culture. There are few Iranians with book reading as their main hobby.

It is said that in Iran people rely more on oral communication than written one. For instance, the number of letters exchanged among Iranians are less than that of other nations. Likewise the number of people reading books and even newspapers is not that encouraging in our country.

Our officials should in the first place find out the reasons for this situation and spare no effort to encourage authors and publishers to supply more varieties to the market to attract more readers. They should also provide people with genuine incentives to read book and newspaper.

An alert nation never surrenders to foreign bullying. An alert nation always checks the functioning of the government to prevent corruption and abuse of power. Therefore in order to have a prosperous Iran, our officials must spread the culture of book reading throughout the country.

Velayati Confers With Turkmen, Azeri Heads of State

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov in Ashkhabad on Wednesday.

In his meeting, Velayati submited the invitation of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Niyazov to attend the 8th OIC summit to be held in Tehran in December.

Niyazov underlined that the people and government of Turkmenistan are eagerly awaiting the upcoming visit of President Rafsanjani to their country.

Referring to the ample grounds of cooperation between the two countries, Niyazov noted that his country would spare no effort to upgrade bilateral ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the future.

He further deplored foreign meddling in the region affairs, saying that regional countries should determine their fate themselves.

While on a visit to Baku, capital city of Azerbaijan Republic, on Tuesday, Velayati called on Azeri President Gaidar Aliyev.



ALIYEV

NIYAZOV
VELAYATI

In the meeting, the Azeri president expressed satisfaction over Tehran-Baku relations and called for Iran's efforts to resolve the crisis in Karabakh.

He said the Islamic Republic could use its influence in the region for that pourpose.

The president of Azerbaijan also deplored interruption of building operations of Khodaafarin Dam on the River Arass which, he said, had been as the result of the occupation of Azerbaijan's soil by nighboring Armenia.

The Iranian foreign minister also handed over the invitation message of President Hashemi Rafsanjani to Aliyev for taking part at the OIC summit in Tehran.

The president of Azerbaijan said that he would participate in the summit with pleasure.

Velayati told Aliyev that there are many ways in which neighboring Iran and Azerbaijan could promote their relations. He added that the Islamic Republic is keen to broaden mutual cooperation between the two countries in every possible area.

he reiterated that Iran looks forward to seeing Azerbaijan and Armenia solve their problems and observed that at any rate the government of Azerbaijan could count on Iran's help for solving the crisis in Karabakh.

Iran's Embassy Rejects UK Daily Allegations

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Embassy in London dismissed the unfounded remarks by the *Financial Times* repeating allegations, commonly made by U.S. and the Zionists, against the Islamic Republic of Iran and criticized the daily for trying to equate Iran with Iraq, an IRNA report said.

It also poured scorn on such an upmarket newspaper using the term 'Gulf' instead of 'Persian Gulf' like the rest of the British establishment contrary to all historical evidence about its established name.

"Just as medieval skeptics could not change the truth about the earth revolving around the sun, nor would the present day forgers be able to alter the authentic name of the Persian Gulf," an embassy official Mohammad Safaei said in a letter to the daily.

He also corrected the false allegation that Iran, like Iraq , was hostile towards its Arab neighbors, pointing out that Tehran's policy was of "cooperation with Muslim countries in the region."

With regard to being "suspected of seeking to acquire nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction," Safaei reminded the *Financial Times* that Iran was among the original signatories to the Non- Proliferation Treaty and remained a staunch supporter of it.

Iran, he said, had not only ratified the comprehensive nuclear treaty ban, but its constructive initiative to help achieve a compromise at the disarmament conference "was appreciated and welcomed by leading members."

International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors had also frequently vindicated Iran's position and as the *Financial Times* may be aware, it was Tehran which has sponsored a nuclear free Middle East in the face of opposition, including from Israel, "the envoy said.

Zolqadr: Tariq-ul-Qods Maneuvers, Message of Peace

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Head of the Joint Command Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC), Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, said that the ongoing Tariq-ul-Qods war games, aimed to upgrade IRGC's defensive power, convey the message of peace and friendship to regional countries and display the might of Islam.

Speaking to IRNA reporter at Tariq-ul-Qod operational region in Bandar Abbas, Hormuzgan Province, Zolqadr said the first batch of high-speed boats of the IRGC Naval Forces will be launched during the maneuvers.

Equipped with sophisticated and modern facilities, the boats will increase IRGC's naval power, he said.

Elaborating on the maneuvers, he said the ground and sea operations have been designed to test Iran's defensive potentials to counter simultaneous hypothetical threats in western and southern parts of the country.

The ground operations of the Tariq-ul-Qods maneuvers extend from Kermanshah (western Iran) to coasts of Hormuzgan and Bushehr (in south) as well as Khuzestan (in southwest) and a number of islands in the region, said Zolqadr adding, the sea operations cover the Persian Gulf waters.

Mahfouzi Elaborates on Activities of Islamic Society of Researchers

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The political activities of the Islamic Society of Researchers (ISR) were elaborated by members of the central council of ISR at a press conference here Tuesday.

Secretary of the Islamic Society of Researchers, Mohammad Sadeq Mahfouzi, said that the ISR considers as its religious task to actively participate in political scene of the country, especially at such a sensitive time since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

"To defend Velayat-e Faqih (Supreme Jurisprudence), and the Islamic Republic of Iran, we will act as devoted Basijis (volunteers)," he added.

Regarding the forthcoming presidential polls, he said that the next president's outlook on different issues is the main criteria considered by the members of the Islamic Society of Researchers in the upcoming presidential elections, slated for May 23.

Among other characteristics the next president should have are experience in campaign against Shah's regime before the revolution, allegience to Velayat-e Faqih, having enthusiasm towards scholars and researchers, avoiding extremism in desicion-makings and having due attention to providing an appropriate condition to flourish young talents, Mahfouzi added.

Asked what candidate the ISR considers as a qualified person, Mohammad Rasoul Zandi, one of the members of the ISR, said, "Fortunately, the three candidates; Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, Mohammad Khatami and Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri enjoy all the qualifications."

However, Zandi added, the Islamic Society of Researchers will announce its view following the approval of the candidates by the Guardian Council, and with regard to the guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Velayati's Message to His Polish Counterpart

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Further enhancement of Iran-Poland relations was discussed in a meeting between the Iranian Ambassador to Warsaw, Mohammad Taheri, and the Polish Foreign Ministry Director General for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Pominsky, on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, In the meeting, the Iranian ambassador submitted Pominsky a written message from Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati for his Polish counterpart, Dariusz Rosati.

Safeguarding People's Vote Top Priority of Interior Ministry

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The top priority of the Interior Ministry is to protect the legal rights and to safeguard votes cast by the people in the upcoming presidential polls, Deputy Interior Minister Gholam Hossein Bolandian said in Mashhad, Khorasan Province, on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Speaking in a meeting of the poiltical and security deputies of the governors general of the country, Bolandian added that Iran is enjoying full security, and suitable conditions have been created to hold the seventh presidential elections, scheduled for May 23.

Bolandian said the election campaign should be held in a peaceful atmosphere and supporters of the candidates should refrain from destructive rivalries which does not befit the country.

Referring to the ill effects of the crises in some neighboring states on the security of the country, the Interior Ministry's deputy said the security measures taken at the borders, especially on the east, will continue in the current year.

Regarding the steps taken to control the country's borders he said, from 1983 to the end of the previous year, 7,100 kilometers of main accessible roads as well as 510 checkpoints were constructed along the borders.

He added that this year too, the construction of roads and security checkpoints will continue in the border provinces and the control of borders will be reinforced by physical fortifications to check the smugglers.

The Interior Ministry's deputy listed the most important tasks of the Law Enforcement Forces as increasing the level of security and general discipline, encouraging greater participation of people in state affairs, reducing the crime rate especially theft and combatting the smugglers, bandits and merchants of death, traffickers of illicit drugs.

Majlis Speaker: U.S., Israeli Plots Foiled

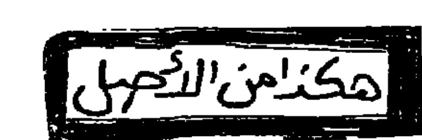
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri said here Wednesday that the vigilant people of Iran, under the wise leadrship of Ayatollah Khamenei, foiled the enemies' plots in the so-called Mykonos case.

The Majlis speaker said that the U.S. and the Zionist regime expected that after raising the issue of assassination of four Kurds in Berlin at a court and making allegations against Iran, they can isolate the Islamic Republic.

However, the return of the EU ambassadors to Tehran was a great failure for the global arrogance and the German government, he added.

Referring to the crisis in Afghanistan, Nateq Nouri said that the main reason behind fratricide and hostilities in the war-stricken country is absence of a wise leadership.

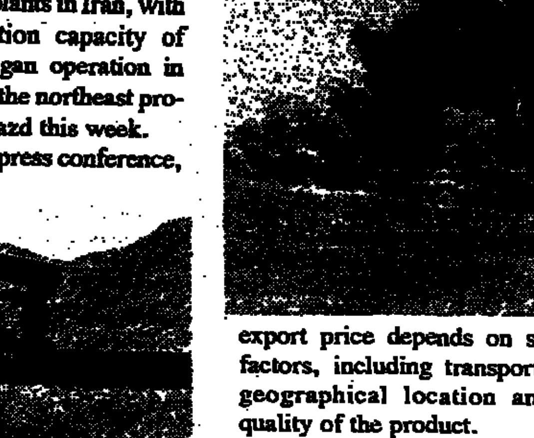


Major Iron Ore Concentrate Plant Goes Into Operation in Chadormaloo

By A. A. Pahlevan

CHADORMALOO, (Yazd Province) — One of the leading iron ore concentrate plants in Iran, with a daily production capacity of 20,000 tons, began operation in Chadormaloo in the northeast provincial city of Yazd this week.

Speaking at a press conference, one of the top officials of this giant industry, Mohammad Hossein Habibian, announced that with the inauguration of Chadormaloo project the country's reliance on iron ore imports would come to an end.



Domestic consumption is 7 million tons annually, and maximum iron ore concentrate production would reach more than 8 million tons. The surplus would be exported as the domestic market becomes saturated. Iran has imported up to 20 percent of the product.

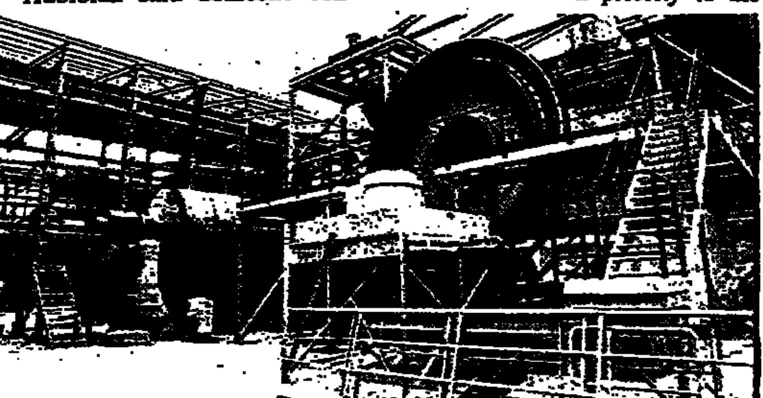
Habibian said domestic consumption is 7 million tons annually, and maximum iron ore concentrate production would reach more than 8 million tons. The surplus would be exported as the domestic market becomes saturated. Iran has imported up to 20 percent of the product.

Habibian further said that the export price depends on several factors, including transportation, geographical location and the quality of the product.

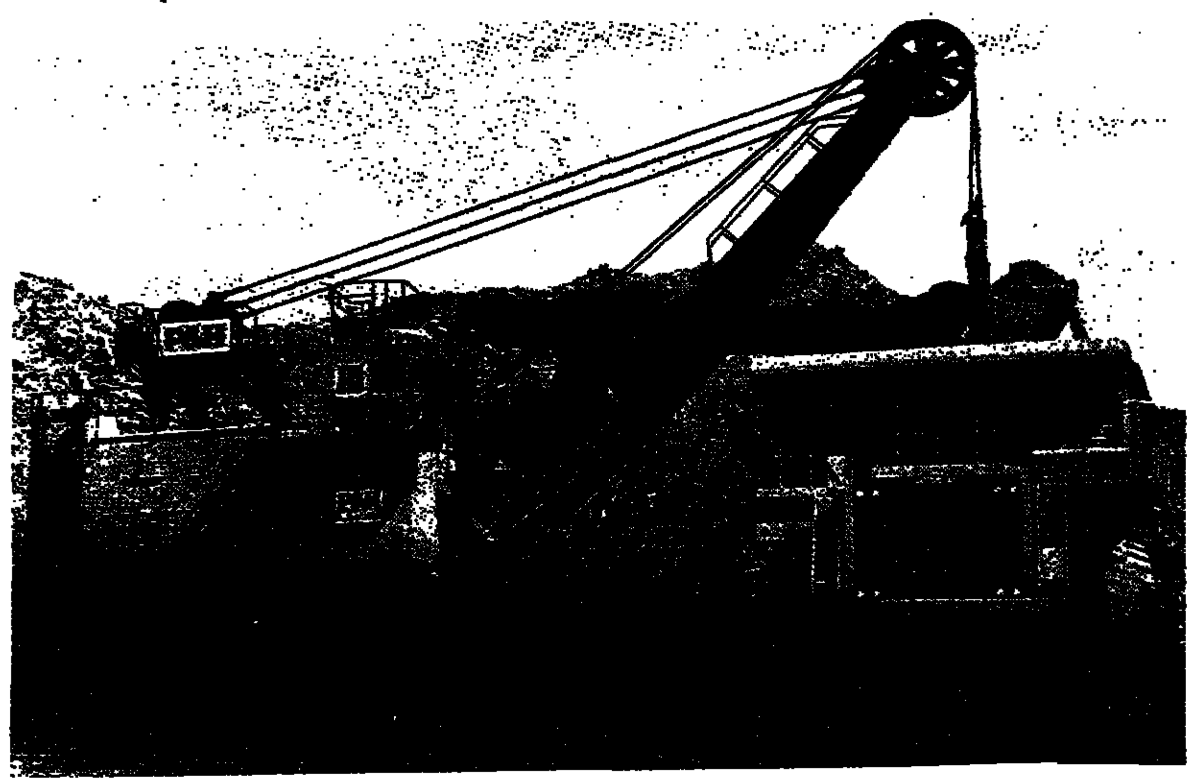
However, the socio-political and economic issues along with fluctuations in the market cannot be ignored, he said.

The final price of importing concentrate for our country is high and, with the inauguration of this plant, Iran saves $170 million annually.

Two hundred kilometers northeast of Yazd, the Chadormaloo mine is expected to supply Mobarakeh and Ahwaz steel complexes with their required iron ore concentrate, so as to curtail imports.



The Chadormaloo project has significant importance for the Islamic Republic, as government authorities attach priority to the completion and commissioning of the Mobarakeh steel complex, Habibian said.



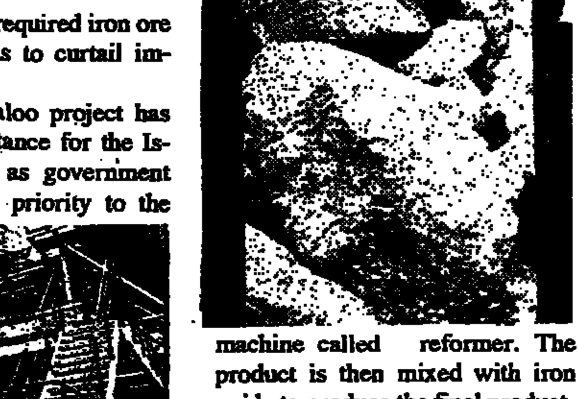
Preliminary works on the project began in 1983, but physical work began in mid-1988, becoming operational this year, with an annual production capacity of 5.5 million tons, which is expected to increase within the next few years.

In 1992, Iran's National Steel Company (INSC) and a consortium of three Japanese firms concluded a $398 million contract for the purchase of machinery and equipment for Chadormaloo, which contains combined reserves of 400 million tons.

Since the Iran-Iraq war the Islamic Republic has embarked on fundamental economic policies to remove obstacles in the way of industrial progress. The Chadormaloo project is considered one of the outstanding iron ore plants which will ultimately bring economic prosperity for the nation.

Habibian said there are two methods for producing steel: The traditional method, or blast furnace, which is currently in use in the Isfahan steel complex; the second method is direct reduction.

In direct reduction natural gas is separated, carbon and oxygen are broken down with the aid of a machine called reformer. The product is then mixed with iron oxide to produce the final product, spongy iron.



In Ahwaz and Mobarakeh giant steel complexes direct reduction is applied. At present, Ahwaz produces 1,500,000 tons of steel products, while Mobarakeh produces 2,300,000 tons.

While jubilant, Habibian said that following endless efforts by industrious experts and laborers, under very tough conditions in the heart of the desert, the plant was inaugurated one year sooner than expected.

He put the total amount of hard currency at $582 million for the establishment of the complex, and added that for its expansion another $100 million were required.

The Islamic Republic in the post Iraq-Iran war has embarked on fundamental economic policies to recomove hurdles on the way to industrial progress. The Chadormaloo giant project is considered one of the outstanding iron ore concentrate plants which ultimately brings economic prosperity for the nation.



General view of Chadormaloo iron ore concentrate complex which is situated 200 kilometers northeast of Yazd. The rich mines can supply Mobarakeh and Ahwaz steel complexes with the current production capacity for more than half a century as Project Director Mohammad Hossein Habibian remarked.

Habibian said that of the estimated reserve of 400 million tons, up to 320 million tons of iron ore are extractable. That figure can produce 225 tons of iron ore concentrate, which can ultimately produce 140 million tons of steel. The purity of the iron ore is between 60 and 68 percent.

2nd International Exhibition on Oil, Gas Opens


SAIDLOU

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Second International Exhibition on Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Industry opened at the permanent fair grounds here Tuesday, attended by the Industries Minister, deputies and officials of the oil ministry, representatives and directors of foreign firms as well as participants from 150 local and foreign companies.

Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, in his inaugural speech touched on good capabilities of the oil and gas sector in the field of engineering and designing said more should be done in specialized areas, IRNA reported.

He said that construction and installation sector has also provided praiseworthy services in this field by successful reconstruction of refineries during the period of war.

The industries minister also told the participants that the Iranian experts have the ability to carry out key activities in all fields especially in oil and gas. However, it is essential for the Iranian specialists to move to the fields of designing, producing equipment, installing and putting into operation and executing projects both inside and outside the country, he stressed.

Deputy Oil Minister, Ali Hashemi, addressing the session said Iran is the fourth largest oil producer and second OPEC oil producer with regard to proven reserves the amount of which is estimated around 90 billion barrels.

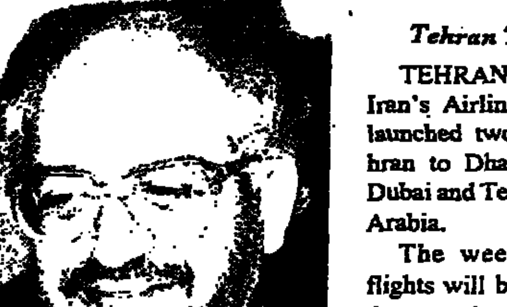
He added that Iran, with 23 trillion cubic meters of gas, has the second largest gas reserves in the world. The value of gas and liquified gas reserves in just the south Pars gas field reaches one billion dollars.

Referring to the petrochemical industry, the deputy oil minister said, the present production capacity of the petrochemical sector is 13 million tons while 10 years ago the production of one million ton was considered to be a wish for Iran.

He added that the oil industry has reached a level of technical know-how that it has not only been able to design and execute plans independently within the country but also has been providing such services to Kuwait, Turkmenistan and other countries in recent years.

Another speaker of the session was Director General of the Export Promotion Center, Ali Saidlou who also touched on Iran's petrochemical capabilities. He said the share of petrochemical products in exports is over 500 million dollars.

He added that the present exhibition, held on a 4,000 square meter area, has put on display variety of products and technical-engineering services related to oil, gas and petrochemical industries as well as up-to-date industries.


NEMATZADEH

Participants in the second international exhibition on oil, gas and petrochemical industries include companies from Canada, England, France, Germany, China, Switzerland, Hungary, Azerbaijan Republic, Ukraine, Austria, Denmark, Turkey and Holland.

The exhibition is open to public from April 23 to 27 at Tehran's permanent trade fair grounds.

Tehran-Dubai-Dhaka, Tehran-Jeddah Lines Launched

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Islamic Republic of Iran's Airline, the Iran Air, has launched two new air lines, Tehran to Dhaka, Bangladesh, via Dubai and Tehran to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The weekly Tehran-Dhaka flights will be on Mondays while the exact departure date of the first flight is not yet determined. Meanwhile, the weekly flights of Tehran-Jeddah will be announced accordingly.

Iran, Uzbekistan to Boost Railways Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - On the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Uzbekistan the two countries will further boost railways cooperation.

During his week-long visit to Iran, the head of Uzbekistan Railways, Nourmat Armatov, and head of Iran's Railways Sadeq Afshar discussed the ways to expand the two countries' railways cooperation and signed a memorandum of understanding here yesterday.

They discussed issues including the increase of railways transportation between two countries, widening technical cooperation in the field of railways, use of cargo wagons of each country, getting access to the open seas through Iran by the Central Asian states as well as establishing a new railways tariffs.

The head of Uzbek railways who headed a delegation of experts visited railways installations and locomotive repair shops in Tehran and Wagon Pars Company of Arak during the delegation's week-long stay in Iran which started on April 17.

Some IUP Members Call For Cooperation With Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Certain International Union of Posts (IUP) member countries called for cooperation with Iran's Post Bank for transfer of international drafts.

According to Iran's Post Bank Company, the postal organizations of Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan Republic, Armenia and Uzbekistan asked for Iran's cooperation in this respect.

Iran's Post Bank Company has reported that extending such cooperation between the IUP member countries would remove many of the problems of the Iranians living abroad for transferring drafts from one side and will bring about considerable flow of hard currency to the country.

Iran Has a Strong Economic Infrastructure

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Minister of the Interior Ali Mohammad Besharati stressed here Monday that Iran has built a strong infrastructure through implementation of the first and second 5-year development plans.

British Industry 'Set to Back Single Currency'

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - British industry is set to exacerbate the divide among major companies, politicians, the media and public opinion by coming out in favor of a single European currency, it was reported in London Wednesday.

According to *the Financial Times*, the Confederation of British Industry is putting forward a consultation document offering three options of when Britain should join European Monetary Union, but none supporting staying outside.

The three choices proposed is that the UK should become a member of a single currency either at its launch date in January 1999, after a short time of observing its performance or in the long term.

Monetary Union is singly the most divisive issue facing British politicians with the ruling Conservative Party being pushed by a majority of its candidates in the general election campaign to oppose the UK's entry and the Labour Party expressing similar sentiments.

Some even suggest that a single currency, which should have started this year, may still never happen or end in disaster because the gulf between European economies and the threat it poses to national sovereignty.

Oil Prices Climb on Nigeria, Iraq, but Tone Weak

LONDON — World oil prices firmed on Tuesday for the third successive day on the possibility of lower oil exports from Nigeria and heightened tension between Iraq and the United States.

But the underlying market tone remained weak and some dealers predicted little chance of further gains.

I'm not very impressed by this market. The helicopters are pretty insignificant and Nigeria is a perennial problem, said Nigel Saperia, managing director of the oil division at Bankers Trust International in London.

We're looking at the top of this little move give or take 10 cents, he said.

Bellwether London Brent Crude futures for June delivery were up 19 cents a barrel at 18.53 at 1125 GMT, well above the nine-month low of 17.54 hit about three weeks ago.

But the downdraft in oil prices has been severe since January when prices touched nearly 25 a barrel. Last year the average for Brent was 20.32 a barrel.

Nigerian exports were threatened with delays but cancellations are not expected, said operators shell on Tuesday. *(Reuter)*

Rls.820bn to Be Offered to Cooperatives

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Cooperatives Minister of Iran Gholamreza Shafie said in Gorgan yesterday that his ministry would pay as much as 820 billion rials in credits to cooperatives in the area of water and soil projects, agricultural sub-projects, forestry, cultural affairs, transportation, school building, and establishment of institutes of higher education.

He said carpet weaving cooperatives could also receive banking credits for their production plans, IRNA reported.

Iranian Trade, Cultural Exhibit Thronged With Japanese Visitors

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - An exclusive Iranian trade and cultural exhibit which opened in Tokyo Sunday was thronged with Japanese visitors.

Hundreds of Japanese people and Iranians living in Tokyo visited the exhibit, where various Iranian products such as carpet, caviar and pistachio are put on display, IRNA reported.

Iranian Ambassador to Tokyo Manuchehr Mottaki during a visit to the 2-day exhibition said the exhibit is aimed at marketing of Iranian goods in Japanese market.

Meanwhile, Head of the Economic Department of Iranian Embassy in Tokyo Masha'llah Shakeri said that Iran would set up six pavilions at the International Trade Fair in Tokyo due to open on April 24.

Tourist Flow From Greece to Iran Up

ATHENS — 294 tourists from Greece visited the Islamic Republic of Iran in ten groups between November, 1996 and April, 1997.

The number includes 168 airline employees in Greece who visited Iran to get first-hand information on tourist sites and facilities in Iran.

The number marks an upward trend in tourism from Greece to Iran, he said. *(IRNA)*

Japanese Business Leaders Praise Peru Hostages Rescue

TOKYO — Japanese Business leaders praised Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori Wednesday for ordering his troops to storm the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima to free the 72 hostages inside.

"I think the operation was based on the president's decision. It was a great success," said Kazuo Haruna, chairman of Japanese Trading Company Marubeni Corp. which had one employee among the 24 Japanese hostages.

"I hope Japan's relationship with Peru will improve with the settlement of the crisis," he said.

Kosau Inaba, Chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and also president of Ishikawajima-Harima heavy industries Co. Ltd., said: "I am relieved to see the Japanese were rescued although some were injured."

"The operation was dangerous but produced a good result," Inaba said. "Peru is responsible for the incident but President Fujimori led the rescue operation in a responsible manner."

Employees of Toyota Motor Corp., whose local president was rescued in the operation, also voiced relief.

"The hostages held out for so long and I'm glad to know they've been rescued," a worker outside a Toyota plant told Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

But another Toyota official said: "It was good that hostages were safely rescued but I don't know whether this kind of way was the right thing to do."

Tadahiro Sekimoto, the vice chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) who is also chairman of Electronics Giant Nec Corp., said the 18-week standoff should serve as a warning to all companies abroad.

"Japanese companies need to be prepared for crises anywhere overseas as Lima is not a special place," he said.

Apart from Marubeni, local news reports said that other Japanese trading companies with hostages rescued were Kanematsu Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., Nissho Iwai Corp. and Tomen Corp., employees of Japanese Food Giant Ajinomoto Co. Ltd., Japan Airlines Co. Ltd., Mitsui Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. and the Federation of Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Associations were also among those freed.

In Lima, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said one Peruvian hostage, two troops and all 14 leftist takers were killed when security forces stormed the residence where the rebels had held the 72 hostages for 18 weeks. *(AFP)*

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday April 23, 1997.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,356	1,363	2,327	2,339
Austria	schilling	145	146	250	251
Belgium	(100) francs	4,960	5,988	8,514	8,557
Canada	dollar	1,252	1,259	2,150	2,161
Denmark	krone	268	270	461	464
France	franc	303	305	521	523
Germany	mark	1,024	1,029	1,757	1,766
Holland	guilder	911	916	1,563	1,571
Italy	(100) liras	103	104	176	177
Japan	(100) yen	1,394	1,402	2,392	2,404
Sweden	krone	229	231	393	395
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,861	2,877	4,911	4,936
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015



SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

FOOTBALL

Boro end Chesterfield's Dream

LONDON: Middlesbrough will face Chelsea in next month's FA Cup final after beating second division Chesterfield 3-0 in a semifinal replay at Hillsborough.
Goals by Fabrizio Ravanelli, Mikkel Beck and Emerson ended Chesterfield's historic bid to become the first team from outside the top two divisions to reach the final as Boro reached the showpiece event for the first time in their 121-year history.

Ostenstad Keeps Saints Alive

LONDON: Egil Ostenstad's 13th goal of the season gave Southampton a crucial 1-0 win at Sunderland to edge the Saints ahead of their opponents in the increasingly intense battle for premiership survival.
Peter Reid's men pressed hard for an equalizer and substitute Niall Quinn hit the post twice before the break.
But Southampton held out, aided by tame finishing that has been Sunderland's trademark this season and threatens to cost them their place in the top flight.
Southampton's win lifted them above Sunderland and Coventry to 15th, three points above the relegation zone, and Saints boss Graeme Souness must wish his side could play against northeast opponents every week — they have won at Newcastle, Middlesbrough and now Sunderland this season.

Nervy Inter Book Final Date With Schalke

PARIS: Inter Milan reached the UEFA Cup final by the skin of their teeth Tuesday as they went through 3-2 on aggregate after going down 1-0 away to as Monaco in their semifinal return.
And the Italians will now face surprise package Schalke, after the Germans overturned a 1-0 first leg loss in Tenerife to oust the Spaniards 2-0 in extra time before a sellout 56,000 crowd in Gelsenkirchen.

Killie End Final Wait

GLASGOW: Jim McIntyre fired Kilmarnock into their first Scottish cup final for 37 years with a dramatic late goal against premier division highfliers Dundee United.
McIntyre struck four minutes from time with a typical poacher's goal to finally break the stalemate between the teams at the end of a tense replay.

TENNIS

Sampras, Muster and Becker Bankrupt in Monte Carlo

MONACO: The world's top two players Pete Sampras and Thomas Muster, together with three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, came up against players holding all the aces in the 2.3 million dollar Monte Carlo Open as they crashed out.
Swede Magnus Larsson, ranked 43 in the world, put paid to world number one Sampras 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 on a day of shocks in the principality. Fabrice Santoro of France, ranked 90th in the world, destroyed world number two Muster 6-2, 7-6 while the ninth seeeded Becker, yet to win a clay court tournament, went out 6-1, 3-6, 6-7 to Italy's Renzo Furlan, ranked 65th in the world.

RUGBY UNION

Saint-Andre Joins Gloucester

GLOUCESTER: Former French captain Philippe Saint-Andre became the latest foreign star to join English rugby as Gloucester made their first major signing of Rugby Union's professional era.
Montferrand wing Saint-Andre, capped 64 times, has spent the past few weeks finalizing negotiations for a two-year contract with coach Richard Hill.
Saint-Andre has captained France in almost half his test match appearances, leading them to an historic 2-0 series win on New Zealand soil in 1994.
But a serious leg injury ruled him out of this season's Grand Slam-winning five nations campaign.

CRICKET

England Star Facing Rap Over Illy Comments

LONDON: England star Jack Russell is almost certain to face disciplinary action unless he tones down criticisms of former chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth in his forthcoming autobiography.
All players are bound by their contracts to submit any articles to lord's before publication for approval and face possible punishment if they defy their observations.
The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) made it clear on Tuesday that wicketkeeper Russell could be punished for his candor.
"The board have looked at the book, and their observations are now with Jack, and it is up to him if he takes them on board," said an ECB spokesman.

De Silva, Ranatunga Dash Pakistan's Hopes

COLOMBO: Aravinda de Silva, ending a drought of test runs, teamed up with skipper Arjuna Ranatunga to steer Sri Lanka to safety in the first test against Pakistan here.
The two experienced Sri Lankans put on 129 for the third wicket as the hosts, trailing by 48 runs on the first innings, recovered from 53 for two to post 206 for three by close of the fourth day's play.

CYCLING

Cipollini Faces Syringe Trouble

PRATO: Top Italian cyclist Mario Cipollini faces possible legal action after a chambermaid allegedly pricked her finger on a syringe left in his hotel room here on the 1996 Tour of Italy.
Silvia Governatori, an examining magistrate, ordered a doctor to examine the contents of the syringe and to assess the woman's physical health.
The chambermaid and her lawyer Giovanni Mati claim the incident on May 29 last year has caused her lasting psychological damage.
The rider and the rest of his Saeco Mercatone team had been staying in the Santa Cristina Hotel for that day's 11th stage of the Giro d'Italia — which sprint star Cipollini went on to win.

SNOOKER

McManus Snatches Last Gasp Win

SHEFFIELD: Scotland's Alan McManus produced a spirited fightback to book a place in the last 16 of the world championship at the crucible theater.
The world number six battled back from the brink of a shock first round exit to dash the hopes of fellow Scot Billy Snaddon 10-9.
But when he trailed 8-4 and 9-8 there appeared no way back for the 26-year-old Glaswegian, a member of Scotland's World Cup winning trio.
In a game lasting 427 minutes McManus was never in front until he potted the opening red of the winner-takes-all 19th frame.
He went on to add a vital run of 34 and later fluked the final brown to leave his good friend requiring snookers.



MONACO (April 22): Monaco's Victor Ikpeba (l) and Milan's Jocelyn Angloma vie for the control of the ball during the UEFA Cup semi-final, second leg match Monaco vs Inter Milan here. *(AFP PHOTO)*

We Win; Weaknesses Exist

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Our national football team finding three times the net defeated Kenya, The goals came through events and the match did not enjoy an exciting current. The young Kenya could overcome their primary fright and emphasize their dominance in some phases of the game.

One of the most significant points requiring revision is the midfield area while breaking into from the sides. To lead the technical capabilities of Mousavi and Azizi is another point to consider. Their ability in keeping the ball is wonderful in case their right spot in the tactical structure is accompanied by a change.

Keep in mind Saudi Arabia in the second play aimed at boxing in Azizi. Adopting a special defensive strategy, the Arabs succeeded to foil Azizi's abilities bringing about our forward line to a halt. The forward duo of Azizi and Mousavi will be of a greater help if they are not left alone in a tactical space. Sending the ball over the goal for Khodadad Azizi was another point to reform.

This kind of tactic helped Kenya to take the dominance in the midfield gradually which of course doesn't mean they had everything under control at any given time.

But something is worth pondering. It has always been a bother to our football national teams. We need professional views to tackle the very problem in order not to encounter the previous bitter experiences.



MONACO (April 22): Swede Magnus Larsson returns a backhand to U.S. opponent Pete Sampras during the second round of the Monte Carlo Tennis Open. Larsson defeated Sampras 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. *(AFP PHOTO)*

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

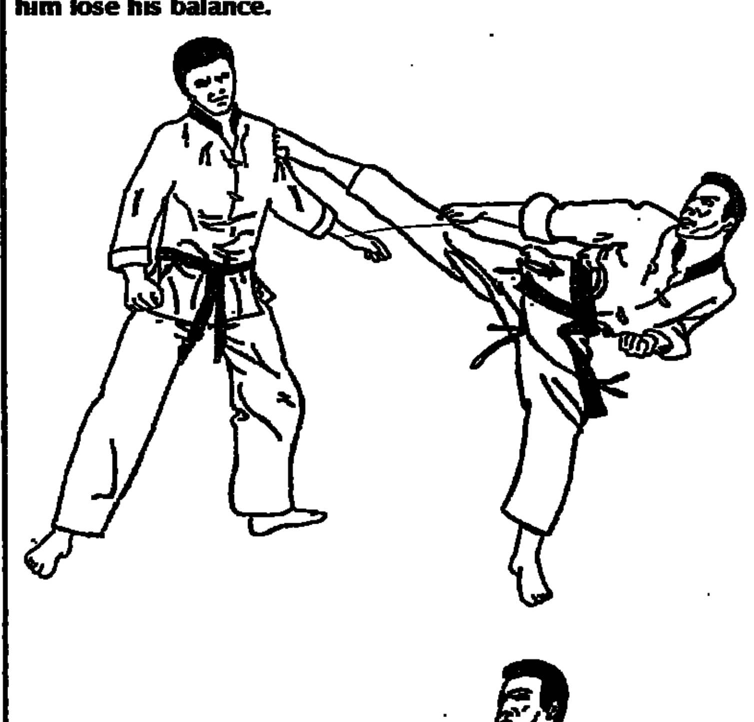
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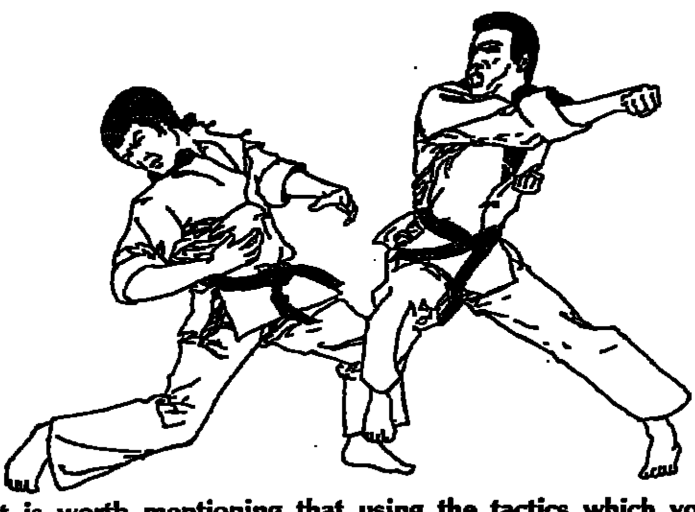
Skills of Kung Fu

(Part 36)

Timing is the key to a complicated attack. So, you should have enough practice to become skilled in this field. While standing in a guard position and in particular after some deceiving offenses, a simple attack can spoil the opponent's guard since the defender expects an introductory or complex attack and consequently is not ready to receive a lightening blow.

The combined movements when fighting with an adept challenger reveal your knowledge of various techniques but striking a simple and direct blow on him shows your capability.
Being aware of the rival's way of fighting is half of the challenge. When you face a calm and patient challenger who defends well, avoids unnecessary movements and distances himself from his opponent, you should never make an attack on him directly. Since such a challenger is usually conversant with blowing and performing hindering kicks from left and right, you have to firstly make him through long deceiving blows give up his blows and then trap him by struggling. But if you face a nervous fighter, you should apply short deceiving blows. Also, you have to make every effort to make him more embarrassed and disturbed.
A short person often makes attacks on the targets moving ahead. On the other hand, a sharp strong rival prefers the close fight. In this case, it is better for you to continue fighting without changing your guard position. Although a tall person is usually slower than a short person, he has more access to his opponent. So, you should try to distance yourself from him because he can strike blows very easily. Also, you'd do better to do so when fighting a rival who continuously makes similar attacks. Of course, you have to not only avoid frequent withdrawing but also make a counterattack on him to make him lose his balance.





It is worth mentioning that using the tactics which your opponent always apply can be often effective. For instance, if he is interested in striking hindering blows, you'd better use defensive blows and if you fight a rival whose blows are usually deceiving, it is time to apply hindering blows. In other words, you should strike him with your fists. Of course, incessant attacks on a fighter who has adopted defensive tactic cannot be a sensible way. Since an inexperienced challenger usually uses similar and unexpected movements, the best policy is to defend against his blows at the last moment and a hindering blow can be the most effective means against his simple and direct attacks.

UNITED NATIONS — The UN General Assembly is to meet in emergency special session on today to debate Israel's controversial decision to build a Jewish settlement in disputed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

The UN session was scheduled after the required number of 93 UN member states — a majority of the 185-nation assembly — sent letters in support of the meeting, UN Spokesman Juan Carlos Brandt said in a statement.

The special emergency session, only the 10th in the United Nation's half-century existence to be held under the General Assembly's "uniting for peace" Resolution (377), is expected to last two days.

The UN Arab Group, backed by non-aligned states, officially requested the emergency special session on April 1 after the United States cast its second veto in the UN Security Council to prevent adoption of a resolution calling for a halt in the construction of the Har Homa settlement.

Har Homa is known as Abu Jebel Ghneim to Arabs.

Western diplomats said that the assembly session took so long to convene because of European objections to the tough language in a Palestinian-drafted resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly.

They said that the draft text, which originally called for a virtual economic boycott of Israel, was still in the process of being negotiated. The Palestinians were expected to further water down the text before a vote.

Although General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding, they carry moral weight which in this case would be further reinforced because of the "uniting for peace" formula.

The General Assembly emergency special session also comes after the 52-state organization of the Islamic Conference and the 113-nation Non-Aligned Movement urged their members to freeze ties with Israel over the Har Homa issue.

"Uniting for peace" is enshrined in a 1950 General Assembly resolution providing for the assembly to act when the UN Security Council has failed in its duties to maintain international peace and security.

The resolution was adopted in 1950 at U.S. urging in the early stages of the Korean war to get round the systematic Soviet boycott of the Security Council.

Infuriated by the two U.S. vetoes in the council on Har Homa, the Palestinians invoked "uniting for peace" to take their complaint to the General Assembly. *(AFP)*

Iranian, Azeri Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with his Azeri counterpart Hassan Hassanov in Baku Tuesday and reviewed Iran-Azerbaijan relations with him.

According to IRNA, the foreign minister of Iran told his Azeri counterpart that the Islamic Republic has given recognition to Azerbaijan immediately after its independence and added that Iran had adopted policies to ensure good neighborly relations with that northern neighbor of Iran.

Velayati said the Republic of Armenia should vacate occupied territories of Azerbaijan and that dislodged families should return home.

The foreign minister of Iran added that the U.S. government intends to infiltrate the world nations and added that the world governments should try to prevent Washington from doing so.

The foreign minister of Azerbaijan said that the Republic of Armenia continues its provocations and that it had not changed its previous position for continuing its occupation of Azerbaijan's territories.

The foreign minister of Iran arrived here for a two-day official visit Tuesday and left the republic to Turkmenistan on Wednesday.

No Change in Greek Position on Not to Recall Envoy From Tehran

ATHENS — Greek Foreign Ministry sources on Tuesday reiterated that there is no change in Greece's decision not to recall its ambassador from Tehran.

Well-informed Foreign Ministry sources told IRNA that Greek Ambassador to Tehran, Dimitris Tsikouris, was taking part together with other ambassadors of the European Union in a meeting in Brussels and after that he will come to Athens to brief the Greek government and to spend his Easter holidays here.

Most Greek ambassadors are in Athens currently to spend the Greek Easter holidays, the most significant Orthodox religious event.

Tsikouris was expected to return to his post in Tehran after the Easter holidays.

Last week, Greek government Spokesman Dimitris Reppas also said that Tsikouris would be taking part in the Brussels meeting and then come to Athens for consultations.

Reppas had clarified that Athens was not recalling its ambassador from Tehran.

The term recalling, which expresses a policy, is not correct, he told a daily press briefing.

The Western media interpreted the Greek move as a change in policy and reported that Athens was recalling its ambassador.

Iran's Ambassador to Athens, Mehdi Khandaqabadi, was carrying out his duties as usual, Iranian Embassy sources told IRNA.

Iran has recalled its ambassadors from all those EU countries which have recalled their ambassadors from the Islamic Republic.

The Greek government said it did not agree with the invitation by the Dutch EU presidency to recall their ambassadors for consultations from Tehran following the Berlin court verdict in the Mykonos case. *(IRNA)*

Tremor Jolts Firouzabad

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A magnitude 4.8 earthquake rocked the city of Firouzabad in the southern Province of Fars at 22:10 hours local time on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

The Seismological Center of Shiraz, affiliated to Geophysics Institute of Tehran University registered the epicenter of the quake 150 km south of the center, between Ghir Karzin and Firouzabad.

A number of houses in the area have reportedly been damaged, but there has been no report on any casualty.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

IRAQ...

"America is chewing over its failure" to prevent the flights, said *Ath-Thawra*, while "Iraq, in sending seven helicopters to repatriate sick and weary pilgrims, is merely exercising its sovereign right in its own airspace."

U.S. President Bill Clinton said Tuesday his country will continue to enforce the no-fly zone along with its western allies, although the Pentagon said the pilgrim flights were only a "technical" violation and will not be punished.

"Such statements, steeped in weakness and disappointment, show up the failure of America and its isolation on the international scene," said another official Baghdad daily, *Al-Jumhuriya*. *(AFP)*

(Contd from Pg.1)

MAJLIS

only endorses the baseless and illegal court ruling and shows that the charges have roots in the German government," the Iranian deputies said in the 10-point statement.

They praised the Iranian government for its "calculated and timely" response to Germany over the affair and called for retaliation against any possible move against Tehran from Bonn in future.

The MPs described the ruling as "another failed attempt" by Israel and the United States. The MPs also asked the government to sue Germany for allegedly supplying Iraq with chemical weapons technology during eight years of the imposed war and for suspending several projects here after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

CHINA

The joint statement builds on the "strategic partnership" accord signed in Beijing last year, which formalized growing relations between the one-time enemies of Russia and China.

Although both sides have gone to pains to emphasize that they are not making an alliance or targetting any particular nation, thinly-veiled criticism of the United States and plans for the Eastward expansion through Europe of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was apparent.

"No country should seek hegemony, practice power politics or monopolize international affairs... the establishment of a just and equitable new international order has become the pressing need of the times," it said.

"Both sides express concern over attempts at enlarging and strengthening military blocs because such a tendency may pose a threat to the security of certain countries and aggravate regional and global tension," it added.

Jiang arrived Tuesday in Moscow for a five-day state visit to Russia. He is due to sign a border troop reduction treaty today with Russia and the former Soviet states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. (AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

MASSIVE...

ganda of the enemies.

Referring to the qualifications of a competent president, Najaf Abadi said it is obvious that the next president should have high qualifications for the job.

He should be an eminent and reliable character in order to maintain the honor and prestige of the system. He should be self-confident and independent in international relations and making decisions. He should be strongly supported by the people.

The next president should have a critical view regarding the enemies' plots, he should have a keen eye to recognize them, and take an appropriate and just stance with regard to them. He should follow the line of President Rafsanjani, and not be affected by Zionist propaganda.

Najaf Abadi said that a president who is the nation's and the system's representative to the world is responsible for all executive affairs and foreign relations.

Concerning the domestic qualifications of a president, he said that a president should be an outstanding religious politician, reliable from the point of view of the Leader, the Majlis and the nation. The relation between the Majlis and the government is very sensitive in the country's reconstruction. The better the relation, the more successful the country's development.

The president should have responsibilities of the National Security High Council, the Council of Cultural Revolution, the Council on the Economy, Board of Ministers and other key responsibilities. These factors should not be hidden from the sharp eyes of people.

Najaf Abadi said further that candidates should clarify their future practical and executive plans in order to familiarize the people with their policies and intentions. In such a case, the people will be able to elect appropriate plans, not merely a personality. Plans are controllable and can be evaluated quantitatively, whereas mottos and propaganda cannot be evaluated quantitatively.

Everything can be said and claimed during interviews, lectures and mottos; everyone can talk about freedom and justice; but what matters is action.

In addition to the characteristics and future plans of a president, he said, the president's colleagues, those who will undertake responsibilities at high levels, are also important. For example, the specifications and characteristics of members of the presidential Council on the Economy and his first deputy are important.

Najaf Abadi concluded that the Iranian nation should take part in elections once again and meet its duty by choosing the best available candidate and the best program.

(Contd From Pg. 1),

COMMONALTIES...

language some 8.00 years ago. Indeed separating Farsi from India is tantamount to separating Islam from that country, he stated.

He underlined that Islam is part and parcel of India's identity, adding that Islam did not reach India through the attacks of the kings and emperors

India's inclination towards mysticism and Islam's emphasis on gnosticism through Farsi as a media paved the way for the spread of Islam in India, Miri added.

As for positive impacts of Farsi on India's culture, he said that Farsi will soon spread in India to the extent that numerous Hindus would write Persian books in various fields. Indeed the Persian books and manuscripts as well as monument scattered all over India are good memorials of intimate connections between Iran, Farsi and India. Taj Mahal is an outstanding example. Farsi has left an unforgettable impact on India's culture, he added.

The personal and public libraries are invaluable treasures of Farsi language in India. Despite prolonged British rule in India, Farsi has a special status in this country. Although Farsi is not job oriented in India, people have a special attachment to this language.

Indeed there are certain problems in the way of the spread of Farsi in India today. Iran Culture House (ICH) has tried to overcome some of those difficulties. The following are some of the steps taken by ICH in this regard.

Farsi was the court language for a long time. All decrees, and communications were written in Farsi, a considerable part of which are kept in Indian museums today. Despite the prolonged rule of the British still we find the impact of Farsi in India in various ways.

There are 180 Persian departments in Indian universities. The ICH organizes annual improvement courses for the Indian teachers of Farsi in New Delhi. Thus far we have had 12 courses. At the latest course, some 180 Indian lecturers and professors participated which continued for two weeks.

We also organize Farsi classes in various parts of India. Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and Jamia Melli Universities are among the most active universities in India. The Association of Farsi Teachers holds annual meetings and we normally invite professors from Iran to participate in such meetings. In order to preserve the legacy of Farsi, we help the libraries to bind Persian manuscripts and correct them by Indian professors.

We also publish the *Qand-e Farsi* journal which contains articles by Indian as well as Iranian professors and researches.

In order to give information about the available Farsi manuscripts in India, we are printing the bibliography of the manuscripts, he said. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ARMY...

Soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas to force stone-throwers back into their houses, but no injuries were reported.

Surif has been sealed off by the army since March 21.

Three local youths were wounded, one seriously, in clashes which erupted over the scheduled destruction of Al-Hur's.

Wednesday and Thursday last week more than 50 inhabitants of Surif were wounded in clashes which coincided with the destruction of the first two homes.

According to another report, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Wednesday urged Yasser Arafat's Palestinian authority to release some 200 activists it is holding and back a new Intifada uprising against Israel.

"We demand the release of these activists, 100 of whom belong to Hamas and have been held in Gaza prisons for the past 13 months," Said Mahmud Zahar, the Hamas spokesman in Gaza City.

"We call on the Palestinian authority to stop this security cooperation with Israel and join in resurrecting the Intifada against Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands," he said.

Zahar was referring to the 1987-1993 uprising in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Under strong Israeli pressure, Palestinian police arrested hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad members last year. *(AFP)*

(Contd From Pg. 1)

HOSTAGE...

blackmail by subversive elements," Fujimori told a crowd in central Lima after the military assault.

The United States absolved Fujimori of blame for the deaths as a result of the operation and in Tokyo, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said he hoped to travel to Peru and personally congratulate the ethnic Japanese leader, who also received plaudits from Europe, Latin America, and other Asian capitals.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda was scheduled to leave for Lima late Wednesday, officials said.

Washington and Tokyo said they had no advance warning of the operation. But Japan offered praise for the daring rescue.

"The timing could not have been better," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama said.

"President Fujimori is a resourceful wartime general. He prepared things so carefully. He's a fine-thinking man."

The Peruvian Congress late Tuesday also praised the military intervention, calling it a "glorious page" in Peruvian history, and naming Supreme Court Justice Carlos Giusti, a hostage who died of a heart attack after he was shot during the rescue operation, a "civil hero."

Bolivian Ambassador Jorge Gumucio, one of the freed hostages, said that troops assaulted the building when the captors were playing soccer in the residence reception hall.

"An explosion underneath the reception hall, where a tunnel had been dug, killed most of the terrorists (and) I saw five or six of them collapse," Gumucio said.

Caretas magazine reported that Peruvian military officers who were among hostages learned details of the assault through family letters written in code.

The signal for the start of the operation was to be a marine anthem played by a band at a nearby headquarters, a reporter from the magazine said. Residents of the area heard the hymn shortly after 3:00 p.m.

Officials said 140 crack troops entered the residence compound through an underground tunnel whose construction was cited by the rebels as the reason for an abrupt suspension of negotiations on March 6. The sunny afternoon calm in the posh neighborhood was shattered by automatic gunfire and a series of explosions that left a thick, black pall over the compound.

Roughly 40 minutes after the operation began, jubilant soldiers appeared on the rooftop of the residence, flashing the 'V' for victory sign. *(AFP)*



هكذا من الأصل

Chronology of Peru Rebel Hostage-Taking at Ambassador's Residence

LIMA — Chronology of the hostage crisis that began here December 17 when Marxist guerrillas seized the Japanese ambassador's residence and ended Tuesday when Peruvian troops stormed the compound:

December 17: Rebels take over the Japanese ambassador's residence during a Gala reception in honor of Emperor Akihito. The women among the estimated 700 hostages are released within two hours. One rebel threatens to execute hostages, declaring: "Either the government gives in or we will all die right here."

December 18: President Alberto Fujimori names Education Minister Domingo Palermo government negotiator. The rebels demand to be taken to the Amazon with about 440 imprisoned comrades and selected hostages. Five diplomats are released to act as intermediaries with the government.

December 19: International Red Cross official Michel Minnig, originally one of the hostages, is appointed a mediator.

December 20: Tupac Amaru rebels release 38 of about 380 captives.

December 21: Fujimori says the government "will not discuss a possible peace agreement."

December 22: The rebels release 225 hostages who had no links to the Peruvian government but continue to hold more than 100 captive — among them Asian diplomats and businessmen.

December 24: The Uruguayan government releases two Tupac Amaru rebels held in its prisons. Within hours Uruguayan Ambassador Tabare Bocalandra is freed.

December 26: The Guatemalan ambassador is freed. One of the Japanese ambassador's German shepherds is killed when it trips a mine on the grounds.

December 28: Government negotiator Domingo Palermo makes his first visit to the residence. The ambassadors of Malaysia and the Dominican Republic are freed along with 18 others.

December 31: Rebel leader Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, a former Textile Union organizer, holds a press conference with reporters who slip into the residence compound. The Honduran ambassador and Argentine consul are freed.

January 1: Seven captives are allowed out, bringing the total held to 74.

January 7: Predawn shots are fired by the rebels. A Japanese reporter and his translator are arrested for entering the compound.

January 8: Fujimori pledges that there will be no use of force at the residence as long as the hostages are safe.

January 15: Rebels agree to a so-called guarantors commission, whose mission is to act as a negotiating board.

January 17: The rebels free Peru's top anti-terrorist fighter, Luis Valencia, the chief of operations for Peru's anti-terrorism police for health reasons.

January 25: Rebels respond with bursts of semi-automatic weapons fire after several days of increasingly provocative police activity around the compound.

January 26: Rebels free Peruvian National Police General Jose Rivas Rodriguez, 56, for health reasons. 72 hostages remain inside.

January 27: A Tupac Amaru rebel opens fire on police officers making obscene gestures at the compound during a military-style parade. The government also begins blaring military-style music from loud speakers erected around the compound.

January 28: Tokyo calls for calm and implicitly criticizes Fujimori's tough handling of the crisis.

January 31: Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Fujimori arrive in Canada and hold a first, informal meeting.

February 1: The Japanese and Peruvian leaders hold a second meeting. Fujimori agrees to step up efforts at dialogue but reiterates no MRTA prisoners will be freed.

February 2: Fujimori meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, who voices support for the Peruvian president's handling of the crisis.

February 6: Dialogue guarantors archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani, Michel Minnig of the Red Cross and Canadian Ambassador Anthony Vincent meet for talks with rebel leader Nestor Cerpa.

March 2: Fujimori, in Santo Domingo, discusses political asylum for the rebels in the Dominican Republic with the country's President Leonel Fernandez.

March 3: Fidel Castro agrees to give asylum to the rebels in Cuba if asked by Peru and Japan.

March 4: The rebels reiterate their refusal to accept asylum in a third country.

March 6: The rebels break off negotiations with the government saying they have discovered an attempt by security forces to tunnel into the residence.

March 7: The Japanese press reports that a tunnel into the residence has been completed.

March 11: Fujimori declines to rule out the use of force to end the crisis.

March 16: Japan says it will ask Cuba and the Dominican Republic to offer asylum to the rebels.

March 17: Thousands of Peruvians stop work to stage a peaceful demonstration to mark the 90th day of the hostage crisis.

March 18: Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura arrives in Lima bringing a letter from Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto to Fujimori. He will travel later to Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

March 19: Japan's Kyodo News Service reports that Fujimori is prepared to compromise over the release of jailed rebels, one of the key demands of the Lima hostage-takers.

March 20: Cuba offers asylum to the rebels following an official request from visiting Vice Foreign Minister of Japan Masahiko Kumora. Nineteen Japanese are among the hostages.

March 20: Fujimori categorically denies reports that he would be willing to release some rebel prisoners to end a the hostage.

March 21: The Dominican Republic offers asylum to the rebels.

March 22: Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani, one of three members of a panel that has been meeting separately with government officials and rebels, called for serious talks, hinting the panel may disband in frustration.

March 23: The rebels agree to a government proposal to go to Cuba, Japan's Mainichi Shimbun reports.

March 24: Fujimori and the rebels consider a six-point proposal to end the crisis put forward by the mediating panel, which would include political asylum abroad for the hostage takers, according to reports.

March 25: Mediators meet with rebels for nearly two hours to apparently iron out details of the reported plan.

March 26: A new session between rebel leaders and mediators is held. Vincent meets with Cuban Ambassador Pedro Diaz.

April 7: Mrta says solution to crisis is in the hands of the government and asks for concrete proposals.

April 10: Mediators meet with National Ombudsman Jorge Santistevan. Cipriani said there were "small advances" in the negotiations.

April 15: Cipriani four the fourth time in one week with Fujimori.

April 19: The Interior Minister and national police chief resign amid reports indicating that rebels holding 72 hostages here may be downscaling their demands.

April 21: Cerpa said the rebels' original demand holds: They want all 440 imprisoned comrades set free.

April 22: Peruvian security forces storm the Japanese ambassador's residence, freeing at least 20 of the 72 prominent hostages ending the more than four-month-old standoff. *(AFP)*



Honeymoon Ends for Bangladesh Leader

DHAKA — The political honeymoon of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has ended as the opposition ratchets up pressure and her government struggles to address the nation's myriad problems.

Nine months after taking office, Hasina's government has its hands full fending off opposition attacks while addressing a stagnant economy, severe electricity shortfalls and a securities scandal that has rocked the country's nascent capital market.

She is rowing against a strong tide, said Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of Dhaka's popular Banglabazar Paktrika newspaper.

Although Hasina, 49, remains popular as the daughter of late Bangladesh independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the warming relationship between Hasina's government and traditional rival India and accusations of secret deals between the two have drawn heavy fire from her opponents.

Her failure to adequately justify those ties to the nation are adding to the pressure against her, Chowdhury said.

Opponents are critical of a 30-year water-sharing treaty Hasina signed with India in December to ensure Bangladesh its share of the Ganges River water and an offer of land transit across Bangladesh *to facilitate* transport between Indian states.

The Ganges originates in the Himalayas and flows down India and Bangladesh into the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh had accused India of obstructing its flow, causing gradual desertification of areas in the northwest.

A chunk of India is on the eastern side of Bangladesh, connected to the rest of the country by only a narrow strip of land sandwiched between northern Bangladesh and Bhutan.

While the government denies having reached a final decision on the transit issue, the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia alleges the deal has already been sealed.

The BNP rejected the water deal, saying it would give India the upper hand in dictating terms on other issues and eventually might turn Bangladesh into a protectorate of India.

India helped Bangladesh to gain independence from Pakistan in 1971 but has been accused of hegemony by the successors to Mujib, who was killed in a 1975 army coup.



Khaleda said readying campaign against Hasina

Khaleda appears to be waiting *for a strong enough reason to* launch a massive campaign to topple Hasina, one South Asian diplomat said on Friday.

It's too early. She has been in office for only nine months, he told Reuters.

The BNP called a general strike on March 23 to test people's response, which analysts say was not very convincing, and later warned that tougher actions are ahead.

Khaleda has yet to spell out what those actions might be, but her close associates told reporters she meant a series of disruptive strikes and street unrest — something Hasina had used while in opposition to topple Khaleda in March 1996.

The BNP says the government has failed to improve law and order, bring in foreign investment, protect industry against smuggling from India and ensure factories enough power.

Bangladesh currently faces a shortfall of 350 megawatts of electricity because of the shutdown of generation plants.

Further, the stock market has been shaky since the securities and exchange commission accused 36 top dealers and company owners of involvement in fraudulent activities last month. The accused are out on bail and their cases are pending.

The Awami League says many of the problems were inherited from the BNP government and promises improvement, but the BNP and its allies appear to be in no mood to wait.

We have given her (Hasina) enough time but she has not been able to make good use of it, Khaleda told her followers in Dhaka earlier this week.

She has alleged that the government has launched a crackdown on political opponents, jailing thousands of BNP activists, which Hasina denied.

Hasina suffered a setback when four senior BNP leaders arrested in March on charges of inciting sabotage were freed by the high court early this month due to a lack of evidence.

The four arrested — three former ministers and the former mayor of Dhaka — were given heroes' welcomes when they walked out of jail. Khaleda called the case proof of Hasina's repressive politics.

This can be a costly mistake when Sheikh Hasina is already feeling the heat...and perhaps is facing prospects of a lot of unrest, said an Asian diplomat visiting Dhaka last week. *(Reuter)*

Teenage Kills Herself, Said She Was Fat

ROME — A 13-year-old Italian girl suffering from the eating disorder anorexia jumped off a balcony and killed herself because she thought she was too fat, media reports said on Tuesday.

The girl, who was not named, jumped from the balcony of her family's seventh floor flat in the northern city of Milan and landed in front of her father and brother. She died instantly.

The media reports said the girl, who weighed only 46 kg (101 lb), was obsessed with her figure and wanted to lose even more weight. They quoted recent diary extracts which said: I should lose a little more weight. I'm fat. *(Reuter)*

Pensioner Carried Hand Grenade for Self-Defense

CHISINAU — Moldovan transport police detained a 70-year-old woman who carried a hand grenade for self-defense in her shopping basket, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

I carry it around because there is so much hooliganism around and you can't expect people to come to your help, it quoted her as saying.

The police detained the woman after receiving a tip-off that a dangerous criminal was riding a suburban train in Chisinau, capital of the former Soviet republic. *(Reuter)*

NATO Fails to Agree on Streamlining Command Structure

BRUSSELS — NATO military chiefs failed to agree on how to forge a leaner, more flexible command structure for the Atlantic alliance after two-day talks which ended here Wednesday, military officials said.

"The military chiefs of staff of the NATO countries have not made any progress, this is a total failure," a diplomat said.

The talks had made progress towards consensus on dividing Europe into two military regions instead of three Tuesday, but Britain, the main loser under the new arrangement, called for further studies.

A last attempt to reach an agreement was made Wednesday morning at an unscheduled special meeting of the military chiefs of staff but the meeting failed, officials said.

NATO's military leaders will now hold an extraordinary meeting in June to try to reach a consensus that would allow a NATO summit, due in Madrid the following month, to ratify the structural reform, a key item on the summit agenda.

Military officials who had agreed to pursue studies on a new structure, failed to reach agreement on reducing to two — north and south — from three — northwest, center and south — the number of regions currently covered by NATO's integrated command in charge of Europe.

Agreement on a reduction had been taken for granted before the meeting. *(AFP)*

Juppe Stresses Europe, Unity for French Election

PARIS — French Prime Minister Alain Juppe rallied his forces on Tuesday for a snap parliamentary election, pledging more of the same economic medicine and stressing his commitment to further European integration.

Addressing parliamentarians and senior members of his often fractious center-right coalition at a conference center in western Paris, Juppe promised an aggressive campaign to win the election and lead a modernized France into the next century.

In the most daring gamble since taking office, President Jacques Chirac on Monday dissolved the National Assembly and brought forward the election by 10 months to May 25 and June 1.

He argued that France needed a government with a renewed legitimacy to prepare for a single European currency and reform the state, cutting public spending and taxes.

The leftwing opposition accused Chirac of preparing a new turn of the screw to meet the strict Maastricht Treaty budget deficit targets required to join the single European currency.

Juppe denied more austerity was on the way as the economy was recovering. But a senior government official told Reuters that further austerity would be required in the autumn to meet criteria to qualify for the Euro. *(Reuter)*

Muslims, Philippines Agree to Take Steps to End Clashes

COTABATO, Philippines — Muslim guerrillas and Philippine government negotiators reached agreement here Wednesday to take steps to end armed clashes that have marred the run-up to preliminary peace talks.

But the talks will continue regardless of continued reports of fighting between their forces, Lanang Ali, negotiator for the Muslim insurgent Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said.

Stopping the fighting was the major issue at the opening session of two-days of negotiations being held in a Catholic-run university here.

The head of the government panel, Major General Joselin Nazareno, said an MILF request for an end to a military offensive against their forces in Zamboanga del Norte Province west of Cotabato would be raised directly with regional military authorities continuing clashes between the government and the MILF in the southern Philippines, particularly in the Zamboanga del Norte town of Sirawai, have claimed 35 lives in the past week. *(AFP)*



GRAND FORKS, ND, United States (April 22): U.S. President Bill Clinton's Blackhawk helicopter flies over flood-soaked Grand Forks, ND. After viewing the floodded town by helicopter, Clinton then addressed area residents at the air base. Most of the 50,000 residents of Grand Forks have been evacuated from their homes because of the worst flooding this area has ever seen. (AFP PHOTO)

Belgian Police Close on "Butcher of Mons" After Head Identified

BRUSSELS — Belgian police were thought to be closing in Wednesday on a serial killer who has taunted them for the past month by leaving a string of female body parts in bizarrely-named locations around the southern town of Mons.

The breakthrough came when investigators established the identity of a second of the killer's victims, whose severed head was found on April 12.

The head belonged to a local woman, believed to be in her 20s, who had not been reported missing.

It corresponds to a torso found on March 24 on a track known as the "Path of Worry" behind Mons station, near the River Hate. Limbs found in separate finds in neighboring localities are believed to be part of the same body.

The woman was identified from witness statements gathered after a photo-fit picture of the victim's face was circulated last week.

However, prosecutors in Mons have not so far released her identity on the request of the deceased's family, concerned about the safety of witnesses.

"Other people are in danger," said state prosecutor Didier Van Reusel.

Van Reusel described the killer as "dangerous, meticulous and intelligent", and said the fact that he or she is still at large had spread fear through the local community. Streets in the region are now deserted after nightfall.

"The ill-feeling is palpable in the town and the surrounding area," he told AFP. "The locals are struggling to take it in, and are scared."

So far, 15 garbage bags have been found in the area since March 22, all contained neatly-severed female body parts, except for one stuffed with clothing.

The parts are from at least three victims, though they may come from up to six different people. *(AFP)*

Hopes Prevail for Peace Talks in Zaire

KINSHASA — Hopes prevailed Wednesday for peace talks between Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel leader Laurent Kabila, despite a hardening of the rebel stance and fears of a battle for Kinshasa.

Mobutu's special envoy Honore Ngbanda Nzambo said the president remained ready for the first face-to-face meeting between the two men, but no venue had been agreed upon after he declined an invitation from President Nelson Mandela.

Earlier Mobutu's son and spokesman Nzanga Mobutu had also said the ailing president was willing to talk, but that he could not go to South Africa for health reasons.

He and Ngbanda said discussions were under way to try to find an alternative venue, with neighboring Congo is the favorite option in Kinshasa.

Late Tuesday, U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Washington still hoped for talks, but that they may not take place in South Africa.

Whether such a meeting will take place depends on both sides compromising a great deal, diplomats here stressed.

Marshal Mobutu will have to swallow his pride and meet the man who wants to oust him from power after 32 years of dictatorship in the vast impoverished nation.

Kabila, whose forces have already captured the eastern half of Zaire, will have to climb down from his insistence that the only talks he wants are on Mobutu's resignation.

Neither have the sides agreed on what comes first, a cease-fire or talks. Kabila has ruled out a cessation of hostilities before negotiations. *(AFP)*

New Indian Premier Urged to Get to Work After Crisis

NEW DELHI — New Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral assumed office Wednesday amid calls to get to work, as talks began which could return finance champion Palaniappan Chidambaram to the government benches.

"It's time to get back to real governance," the *Indian Express* said, a day after Gujral won a confidence vote for his minority United Front Government.

"But it can't be done unless there is a renewed attempt on the part of the United Front's parties to bury their various hatchets."

The *Times of India* stressed the need for urgency to get the wheels of government moving.

"There is a whole host of chores before the new government that cannot wait to be done," the newspaper said, reflecting a nationwide urgency to forget the past three weeks of political turmoil.

The 77-year-old Gujral, a former diplomat, assumed office after calling on Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma Wednesday. Sharma had asked Gujral to seek the trust vote.

Gujral's coalition is a virtual replica of the previous United Front led by H.D. Deve Gowda, which was toppled on April 11 after the Congress (I) Party withdrew its parliamentary support.

The Congress agreed to prop up the Front again when it replaced Deve Gowda with Gujral, who was sworn in as India's 12th premier Monday and won the parliamentary trust vote the next day.

Gujral's election as Deve Gowda's successor caused a bitter leadership battle, which led to the regional Tamil Manila Congress (TMC) of G.K. Moopanar withdrawing from the coalition. *(AFP)*

14 Muslim Separatists Among 20 Killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India — Fourteen Muslim separatists and an Indian army officer were among 20 people killed in five separate incidents in the northern state of Kashmir, a defense spokesman said Wednesday.

Four militants belonging to the Harkat-ul-Ansar separatist group were gunned down by Indian troops in a battle Tuesday night in the northern Kashmiri district of Baramulla, the spokesman said.

An Indian soldier was critically injured in the attack, he said.

Three other Muslim separatists and an Indian army officer died in a firefight in the southern district of Doda, he added. *(AFP)*



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News From the World of Medicine

On the Cancer Front

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) recently announced that the death rate from cancer in the United States fell by roughly three percent between 1991 and 1995 — the first sustained decline since national record-keeping began in the 1930s.

This "marks a turning point from the steady increase we've seen throughout much of this century," says NCI director Dr. Richard Klausner. "The 1990s will be remembered as the decade when we measurably turned the tide against cancer."

Most of the overall drop is due to declines in lung, colorectal and prostate cancer deaths in men — and breast, colorectal and gynecologic cancer deaths in women. The decline has been greater among men than women, mostly because of changes in the lung cancer rates, which are strongly influenced by smoking patterns. Lung cancer mortality fell 6.7 percent in men in the five-year period, while rising 6.4 percent in women.

Poison-IVY Protection

If you're sensitive to poison ivy, oak or sumac — and as many as 70 percent of people are — relief is in sight. Last year, Ivy-Block was approved by the FDA, making it the first product providing protection against poison ivy and its cousins to get the agency's okay. The key ingredient in the milky, non-prescription lotion is bentoquatam, a drug that blocks the oil fom the plants' leaves and stems, preventing it from producing the characteristic itchy rash.

Ivy Block was tested on workers such as firefighters and forest rangers, whose jobs put them in frequent contact with the noxious plants. The lotion is expected to be on drugstore shelves nationwide this spring.

Gender Gap for Pain

According to a study published in *Nature Medicine,* researchers have found that certain pain medications work better on women than on men.

In the past, tests done mostly on men suggested that so-called kappa-opioid drugs were less effective than morphine and codeine drugs. In the new test, 28 men and 20 women in their 20s took a kappa-opioid drug after having at least one wisdom tooth removed. The results: women reported far greater, longer-lasting relief than their male counterparts.

"Biologically, men and women don't obtain relief in the same way," says study author Dr. Jon D. Levine. "It may be that the brain circuitry regulating pain relief differs between the sexes — or that sex hormones facilitate or interfere with pain drugs."

In an editorial accompanying the study, Florida State University neuroscientist Karen Berkley says the findings highlight the need for more basic research on the mechanisms of pain and its relief, more comparative tests of painkillers — and more inclusion of women in future clinical trials.

Alzheimer's Report

While many new medications for Alzheimer's disease are now being tested, donepezil hydrochloride (Aricept) recently received approval by the FDA. The drug proved to be safe and effective in clinical trials of patients with mild to moderately severe disease, and is now available by prescription.

Like tacrine hydrochloride (Cognex) — the first medication approved for Alzheimer's — donepezil hydrochloride blocks the breakdown of acetyl-choline, a critical brain chemical associated with memory. But the new drug appears to have fewer side effects than tacrine, which can elevate liver enzymes, requiring regular blood testing.

Still other research focuses on promising therapies that might delay onset of the disease. Recent studies suggest that nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen or the hormone estrogen might stave off Alzheimer's. Also under investigation is vitamin E plus selegiline, an antioxidant that boosts the brain chemical dopamine, and prednisone, a steroid that may have an NSID-like effect.

Cold Comfort

Each year 50,000 people suffer severe head traum in car crashes, falls or other accidents. Most such patients require long-term care, and so far, treatments have been disappointing. Now researchers at several hospitals are testing whether they can help more patients recover fully by cooling them with ice water.

The idea is to lower body temperature enough to slow a person's metabolism, thereby slowing a cascade of chemical reactions that immediately follow head injury and cause the death of brain cells. During hypothermic — or cooling — cherapy, patients are covered with cool blankets attached to pumps that provide a constant infusion of water. The body temperature is lowered in four to six hours to about 90 degrees — low enough to slow metabolism but not so low to cause life-threatening complications, like irregular hearbeat. Patients remain in this state for 24 or 48 hours.

In a pilot study of 46 head-trauma victims at Houston's Hermann Hospital, Dr. Guy Clifton found that 52 percent of those given hypothermic therapy made a good recovery, compared with 36 percent treated with standard therapy at normal temperatures. "We don't have many effective remedies for head injuries," says Dr. Michael D. Walker, director of stroke and trauma at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. "This one is promising."

(Courtesy Reader's Digest)

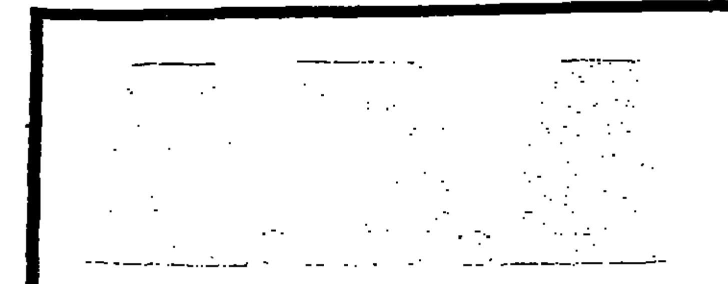
Norwegian Dog May Have Died of "Mad Cow" Disease

OSLO — An 11-year old dog in Norway that died recently may have been infected with "mad cow" disease, Norwegian television said quoting scientists who performed an autopsy on the animal.

According to national television TV2, an autopsy at Norway's college of veterinary science showed changes in the dog's brain that resembled the changes in cattle and sheep afflicted with "mad cow" disease and scrapie, experts said.

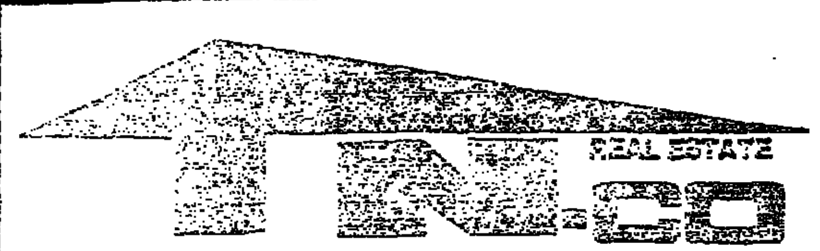
"The dog was brought to us after it died. It had shown nervous symptoms for some time, and we were interested in performing an autopsy on it," pathology professor Jon Teige said.

"The brain was examined and in connection with that, spongiform encephalopathy was found, changes in the brain that we judge to be very similar to those we see in scrapie and 'mad cow' disease," he added. *(AFP)*



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TEHRAN TIMES

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Special Issue on Eid-ul-Ghadir

Al-Ghadir, Appropriate Occasion To Revive Islamic Percepts

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The revival of divine percepts can help us settle the problems man faces in today's societies, head of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO), Hojjatoleslam Mahmoud Mohammadi Araqi told the *Tehran Times*.

Speaking on the eve of Eid-ul-Ghadir, Hojjatolesalm Araqi added that the most important message of Eid-ul-Ghadir is dissemination of spiritual values, return to God, divine leadership, spiritual growth of the society and saving the society from corruption.

Araqi further underlined that brotherhood covenant is of vital importance in Islamic Sunna, adding that strengthening the brotherhood ties in Islamic society would lead to the prosperity of the people living in that society.

Elaborating on the problems that man faces currently, the head of the IPO termed materialism and luxurious life the negative aspects of Western societies, adding that unfortunately the Western life style has left negative impacts on some Islamic societies.

Araqi noted that Islam in general and Shiism in particular, have paid due attention to brotherhood covenant and that it paves the way for revival of Islamic values and removes counter-values from the society.

He reiterated that the spread of the divine Sunna would resolve all the political, economic, cultural and social problems in Islamic societies, and that brotherhood covenant would assist Muslims to build a heaven for themselves on the earth.

Araqi said that implementation of brotherhood covenant in Eid-ul-Ghadir was a key factor, preparing the ground for Islamic Ummah to get more united. "Implementation of brotherhood covenant brings more blessing to the society," he added.

The head of the IPO further underlined that brotherhood covenant would spread spiritual values as well as strengthen faithfulness and cordiality among people in an Islamic society.

Elaborating on other positive impacts of brotherhood covenant, Iraqi expressed hope for a brotherhood covenant among the heads of the Islamic countries in the future, saying that such covenant would help them to iron out differences and resolve their political, and social problems. He mentioned that implementation of brotherhood covenant, would turn Islamic Ummah to a powerful force against arrogant powers.

Implementation of brotherhood covenant will remove poverty, oppression, and political and social hostility from the Islamic society. It can also help the oppressed Palestinians to restore their rights from the aggressor Zionists, Araqi said.

Touching on the ways to implement the brotherhood covenant, Araqi said that such an agreement should be declared in a mosque in presence of the prayer leader. The parties in this agreement should observe ritual ablution. In accordance with the Sunna, the two parties who intend to swear the covenant should simply shake each other's right hand one of them saying: "I swear brotherhood covenant with you in the way of Allah that if I be eligible to enter the heaven in the Hereafter, I would not enter unless you accompany me." The other party accepts the allegiance by saying, "accepted". Since keeping the brotherhood pledges is very difficult, it is recommended that both the parties say, "I cancel all rights to brotherhood except mediation, praying for each other and meeting each other."

Araqi further said that such a powerful agreement among Muslims is not limited to this world but it remains till the Hereafter.

As for the history of brotherhood covenant in Islam, Araqi said that it dates back to the time of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S). According to religious traditions, the Holy Prophet (S) took part in two brotherhood covenants during his life. One in Medina and another in Mecca where he called on all Muslims to assemble at the mosque and asked them to choose a representative to implement the covenant.

He added that the issue of Ghadir appears in several Islamic texts. On the Eid-ul-Ghadir Prophet Mohammad (S) appointed Imam Ali (AS) as his successor and sworn the brotherhood covenant with him in the public.

Quoting Al-Ghadir Vol. III, Hojjatoleslam Araqi further said that the issue of brotherhood covenant was not limited to men, but women could swear sisiterhood covenant between themselves. For instance, Hazrat Fatima (SA) the daughter of Holy Prophet (S) chose Umm Salama as her religious sister.

Elsewhere, Hojjatoleslam Araqi narrated that in the Eid-ul-Ghadir even Imam Ali (AS) was appointed by Prophet Mohammad (S) his successor under the command of Allah, adding that the event of Ghadir has been explained in numerous books of history and Islamic traditions.

Allama Amini in the Al-Ghadir Vol. I mentions the name of 350 top Sunni Alims who narrated the Ghadir tradition and sermon of Prophet Mohammad (S) on the Ghadir Day on appointing Imam Ali (AS) his successor, he said, adding that the title of twenty books about Al-Ghadir event and 60 traditions on the ways of expressing one's greetings and public allegiance are incorporated in the book.



Elaborating on the message of Al-Ghadir, he said, on the basis of the sayings of Prophet Mohammad (S), Al-Ghadir is the declaration of announcement of an ideal and innocent leadership for Islamic Umma.

On the basis of the philosophy of Imamat, the Almighty God always appoints a perfect, innocent, scholar, and God-fearing person unto mankind to take the helm. On the day of Al-Ghadi, Mohammad (S) appointed Ali (AS) his successor who enjoyed all the above characteristics.

There is no doubt that every society requires a political leader, so an ideal leader should be highly educated who prefers the interests of the society to his personal interests, he said, adding all the problems of certain societies stem from unjust and corrupt rulers. On the day of Ghadir and at Khumm region (outskirt of Mecca), on God's command, Prophet Mohammad (S) appointed Ali (AS) his successor.

Elaborating on the world Moula (leader), he said that Prophet Mohammad (S) said on the day of Ghadir that "Ali (AS) would be the commander of the Muslims who consider me their commander."

He underlined that if the meaning of brotherhood covenant was not velayat, why did Prophet (S) call Muslims for gathering in the hot weather of Hijaz to convey his message.

Hojjatoleslam Araqi underlined that unity of Muslims is important for us and Muslims should consider Al-Ghadir as a factor for unity.

Concluding, he called on all the Muslims to swear brotherhood covenant on Ghadir Day to pave the way towards unity.

اليوم اكملت لكم دينكم و اتممت عليكم
نعمتي و رضيت لكم الاسلام دينا

This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favor on you and chosen for you Islam as a religion.

Holy Coran -5:3

AL-GHADIR

The last journey of the Prophet (S.A.W.) to Mecca

The Prophet of God had not offered pilgrimage after his emigration to Medina. All of a sudden the good news spread that the Messenger of God was preceeding towards the sacred city of Mecca. In order to avail the opportunity of accompanying the Prophet people from every corner of Arabia thronged in multitude. Within no time tents of more than 100,000 people desirous of pilgrimage were seen planted in the environs of the city of Medina. On 25th Saturday, the 25 of Zilqa'ad 10 A.H., corresponding with the year 633 A.D., the last Messenger of God took bath and put on some simple garments comprising of a calico mantle for lower part of the body and a wrapper. He applied perfume to the body and clothes. Offered noon-prayers and accompanied by the members of his household came out of the city. The caravan was ready to start and awaiting for the order of departure. Receiving the signal to move on an immense concourse of human-beings was seen surging up on the horizon.



The biographers have very cautiously quoted the figures and numbers. Their estimate is that the number of persons who set out for journey along with the Prophet of God was in no way less than ninety thousands. Besides this the Muslims who reached Mecca from other parts also numbered in thousands.

For instance, Imam Ali (A.S.) had led a large congregation of pilgrims to Mecca. Keeping this consideration in mind the observation of the famous historian, Ibne Atheer Al-Jázari, that the crowd on the occasion of the Farewell Pilgrimage swelled to more than 140,000 seems to be quite correct.

GLIMPSES OF THE JOURNEY

Not a single event of the sacred life of the Prophet has been spared by the mighty pen of the biographers. But you will have to admit that the *minutest* details concerning the passage and halting places through which this caravan passed has been treasured in the annals of history in a unique manner. We get no other example where one solitary occurrence has been described so comprehensively. Nor we can trace any other instance when so many resources have publicised an affair with such prominence and vividity as we witness in respect of this great festival. It would be no exaggeration if we assert that history has preserved each and every impression of the foot-points of this caravan in its pages. It has transmitted the reflections of this memorable event to its readers from various point of views and angles.

The journey from Medina to Mecca was completed in ten days. Its details are — that in the early morning of Sunday the 26th of the month of Zilqa'ad 10 A.H. this caravan reached Yalamlam. For a short while during the night it stopped for prayers and meals at Sharfus-Sayyala. Morning-prayers was offered at Irquz-Zubya and in the early hours the caravan was at Rauha. Few moments were spent at Munsarif for noon-prayers and at the place of Muta'asha there was a short break of journey for evening-prayers and supper. In the dusk of night the Prophet graced the alighting place known as Isaba. When the golden rays of the sun were emerging from the east the soil of Arj, watching the dust of the caravan, was all welcome for the worthy guest. On Tuesday the Apostle of God entered Lahi Jama and on Wednesday he got down at Suqya. Most of the night was spent in the way and at dawn he arrived at Abwa. At Abwa the shrine of the Prophet's beloved mother is situated and there the noble son of A'minah offered prayer. On Friday the caravan was at Johfa and on Saturday it halted at Qudaida. It reached Asfan on Monday and starting hurriedly from here the members of the caravan stayed at

(Contd on Pg. 4)

Shi'ism

By: Allamah Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Ali Kasef Al-Ghita

Shi'ism is not a new religion. It begins with the beginning of Islam. The embodiment of the code of religion, that is, the seal of the Prophets (S) planted the tree of Shi'ism together with Islam; with his own hands, he watered it and looked after it. The plant grew up to be a green tree which began blooming in the life-time of the Holy Prophet (S). But it had not yet born fruit, when the light of prophethood was put out.

We are not alone in the advancing this claim. Even the eminent scholars from among the Sunnis agree with us. For instance, 'Allamah Siyuti in his famous commentary "ad-Dorro 'l-manthus" says in connection with God's words "Hom Khayro l-Bariyah" (they are the best of created beings) (Surah: The Clear Proof: Ayat 7):

"Ibn Asaker quotes Jaber Ibn Abdellah as saying: "We were present in the company of the Holy Prophet (S) when Ali (AS) came towards us. Seeing Ali (AS) the Prophet (S) said: "I swear by God the Almighty, who is the Master of my life, that he (Ali (AS)) and his Shi'as shall be successful on the day of judgement."

Ibn 'Adi reports from Ibn 'Abbas that when the verse "Inha l-ladhinad amanu wa 'amelu ,s-salehat" (Verily these are those who believed and did good deeds) was revealed, the Holy Prophet (S) said to Ali Ibn Abi Tablib (AS): "It refers to you and your Shi'as; God will be pleased with them and they with Him on the Day of Judgement."

Ibn Madawa'ih quotes Hadrat Ali (AS) himself as saying: "The Holy Prophet (S) said to me: 'Oh Ali. Did you not hear what God said: 'Inna l-ladhina amanu wad amelu s-salehat ulaeka hom khayro l-bariyyah.' Verily it means you and your Shi'as. The promise between your people and me shall be fulfilled at the fountain of Kwthar; there, when all the nations shall be present to account for their actions, you people will be called forward, your faces, hands and feet shining with light'." These three hadith are to be found in as-Soyuti's "ad-Dorr al-manthur."

Ibn Hajar hals also reported some of these traditions in his as-Sawaeq from Darqotni. He quotes Umm Salamah as saying: "Oh Ali. You and your Shi'as shall attain Paradise." Ibn Athir writes in connection with the word "Qomh" that the Holy Prophet (S) said to Hadrat Ali (AS): "When people come into the presence of God, your Shi'as will be there content with God and He with them, and your enemies shall be subjected to God's wrath and their hands shall betied to their necks." The Holy Prophet (S) demonstrated this by putting his hands behind his neck, and said: "See, they shall be tied up in this way."

Probably this tradition has been reported by Ibn Hajar also in his as-Sawaeq" and other Ulama have also reported it in different ways, showing that it is among the wealknown hadith.

In az-Zamakhshari's "Rabi al-Abrar" the following statement of the Holy Prophet (S) has been recorded:

"Oh Ali. On the Day of Judgement God's mercy will be with me and you will cling to me and your descendants will cling to you and the Shi'as of your descendants will cling to your descedants. Then you will see where we will be taken (I.e. Paradise)."

For further satisfaction, it will be useful to study Ahmad ibn Hanbal's "al-Mosnad" and an-Nasa'i's "Khasaes" etc., which contain a number of such traditions.

These traditions show that the Prophet of Islam (S) spoke a number of times about the Shi'as of Ali (AS) and pointed out that on the Day of Judgement they, in particular, shall be safe and successful, God being pleased with them and they with Him.

Everyone who believes that the Holy Prophet (S) was the embodiment of truthfulness and that the verse which beings "Ma Yanteqo an el-hawa..." (He does not speak of himself unless 'wahy' is revealed to him) refers to the Prophet (S) himself, realizes that this hadith must be true. Those people however who understand the above hadith as referring to all the companions of the prophet, have failed to recognise their real inner meaning.

Venerable Companions Attached to Ali (AS) Called Shi'as

We find that during the days of the Holy Prophet (S) a group of outstanding companions was attached to Hadrat Ali (AS). Not only did every man in this group acknowledge the Holy Imam (AS) to be his spiritual leader, the real transmitter of the Holy Prophet's teachings, but they also acknowledged him as the true interpreter and commentator of the orders and secrets of the Prophet (S). It is this group which is popularly known as the Shi'as. Even the lexicographers support this truth. If you refer to the famous dictionaries "an-Nehayah" and "Lisan ol-Arab" you will find the meaning of "Shi'a" as "one who loves and follows Ali (AS) and his descendants."

If however we are to understand that "Shi'a" means any person who loves Ali (AS) or is not his enemy, then the use of this word would be inappropriate; because only loving, or at least, not being an enemy of him, does not mean that a person is a Shi'a; if however, he has the characteristic of persistent following and obedience, then the word Shi'a would apply; this is crystal clear to those who have an understanding of Arabic and a notion of the relationship between word, meaning and context.

In view of these realities, it is unlikely that any sensible man, after studying the appropriate traditions, could draw the conclusion that the word Shi'a means the Muslims in general, but will understand that it refers to a particular class which has a special attachment to Ali (AS).

Hopefully, after this explanation, no fairminded man will try to conclude that the above quoted traditions do not prove the existence of a group who, because of their special relation with the master of the pious, Ali (AS) were superior to all the Muslims of that time, and who all expressed their love for him.

Personally, I do not agree with the assumption that the Caliphs, who could not accept this fact, consciously violated the words of the Holy Prophet (S). It is possible many of them did not hear his edicts, or that those who heard them were unable to follow his directions.

Merits of Shi'as

Moreover, if the statements of the Prophet (S) in which he announced the rank and high position of Amir Al-Mo'menin (AS) and the Ahl al-Bayt (AS) are studied with an open mind, it will be seen that these reports do not only show merits of a general nature, but also contain clear indications of how to recognize the status and capability of the Leader of Shi'ism, and of how to contribute to the establishment and justness of that school of thought. The following traditions may be cited as examples.

"Ali (AS) bears the same relationship to me as Harun (Aaron) had to Musa (Moses)."

Oh Ali, only those with faith (Iman) are your friends and only the hypocrites (Monafeqin) are your enemies."

"Oh people of my Ummah. I leave behind two things worthy of great esteem - the Book of God and my progeny, my Ahl al-Bayt."

"According to the tradition of at-Tayr, the Prophet made the following prayer: "Oh God. Send to me your most beloved slave," and immediately Ali entered his presence.

"Tomorrow I will give this standard to the man who loves God and His Prophet (S) and whom God and His Prophet (S) and whom God and His Prophet (S) also love."

"Ali is with the Truth and the Truth is with Ali." These traditions are mostly taken from "Sahih al-Bokhari" and "Sahih al-Muslim," and there are thousands of such authentic reports. This small booklet cannot accomodate details of them. Those who are fond of research work can study the famous book "Abeqat al-Anwar" by 'Allama' Seyyed Hamed Hussein, which is ten times as voluminous as "Sahih al-Bokhari" and is a masterpiece of research in the field of hadiths.

Factors Accelerating The Spread of Shi'ism After the Prophet (S)

When the light of prophethood was extinguished, a group of the "Sahaba" started to act to prevent the Caliphate from passing to Ali.

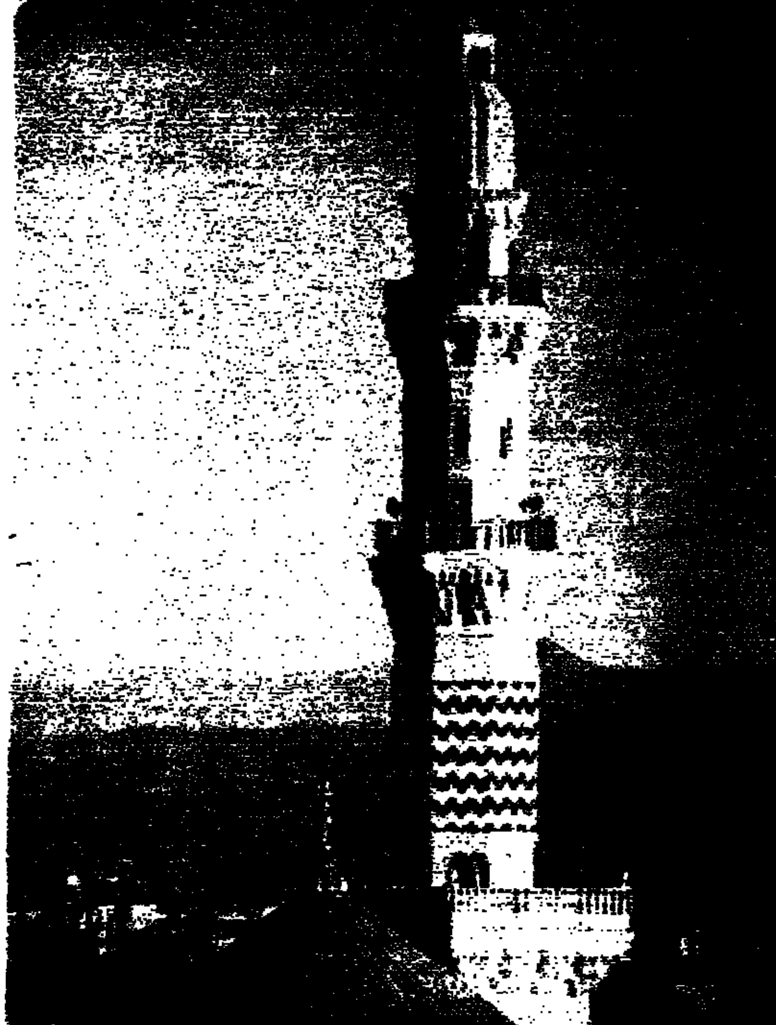
The cause of this opposition might have been the young age of the Holy Imam, or the feeling among the Qoraysh that the prophethood and the Imamat should not be combined in the house of Bani Hashem; there might have been other causes, we do not have the space to discusss them here.

Both the Sunni and the Shi'a sects agree however that, when allegiance was being taken from the Muslims, Ali (AS) did not accept the authority of Abu Bakr, and, according to "Sahih al-Bokhari," (see the chapter on the victory at Khaybar), he did not pay allegiance until six months had passed. Some of the eminent companions, like az-Zobayr, 'Ammar and Meqdad and others, also refused to pay homage to bu Bakr.

The fact is that Ali (AS) had no craving for political power, nor desire to rule, other than in his capacity as Imam.

The talk that he had with Ibn 'Abbas at Dhi Qar clearly proves which way the son of Abu Taleb (AS) was going. Amir Al-Mo'menin (AS) had only one purpose in view, and it was that "religion" might remain safe, "right" might prevail and "wrong might be exterminated. Imbued with these high feelings, Ali (AS) relinquished his indisputable rights. He did not adopt any plan to overthrow the caliphs. Rather, in order to lead and guide the people to the right path he always cooperated with the government; his wise suggestions enabled Islam to flourish and meant that religious commands were made known to all. If Ali (AS) had not adopted this course of action, not only would Islamic unity have been shattered, but the people also would have been lost in the labyrinth of ignorance.

The Shi'as too continued to follow their leader; the spirit of the time demanded that differences should be ignored. For this very reason, they did not try to establish themselves as a sect during the regime of the first caliphs. Of course Ali's friends silently observed the modus operandi of every ruler and the changing conditions till at last the nation itself selected Ali (AS) as its leader.



Eid-ul-Ghadir, Day of Solidarity With Islamic Leadership

Tehran Times Service

We Shi'a and Sunni brothers are close to each other and have a great many values in common. Although they may have some differences of views on the theological problems, such differences are few and need not be exaggerated. They are no serious than differences of views existing between two groups of Sunnis themselves. Just as much as the existence of differences among the four Sunni sects does not cause quarrels, these Sunni-Shi'a differences need not and is not a cause of friction between Shi'as and Sunnis.

Undoubtedly the most significant question of doctrinal difference between the Shi'as and Sunnis derive from the problem of leadership (Imamat). On the occasion of the anniversary of Eid-e-Ghadir-Khum, we shall evaluate this problem.

Essentially, God's grace necessitates that after the death of God's Prophet (S), the Muslims are not left without leadership. How is it possible that God who has provided for the explanation of the minutest problems of Islamic society, has remained silent regarding such an important affair? How is it possible that the question of leadership, which is intrinsic to and is an essential part of the organizational and societal framework of the Muslim Ummah (community), has not been dealt with?

Imamat in Qoran

From the Qoran's viewpoint, Imamat (leadership) is so important that in the second chapter, verse 124, it says:

"And when his Lord tried Ibrahim with certain words, he fulfilled them. He said: Surely I will make you an Imam of men. Ibrahim said: And of my offspring? My covenant does not include the unjust, said He." Qoran (2:124).

One can infer from the above and conclude that a person to qualify as an Imam, should possess the highest spiritual humanosity just as Ibrahim who had such a place, was chosen by God for appointment as an Imam. Imamat is moreover an office that confers on its holder a divine status. Imamat and Nobowat (prophethood) may only fall over such noble ones as Ibrahim and Mohammad (S). And, finally, any who is chosen to be an Imam should like these noble exemplars be clear of all defilement, oppression and sin.

Imamat in Prophet (S)'s Traditions:

The dear Prophet (S) during one of the last days of his life said: O Muslims! I am departing from your midst. But I shall leave you two valuable legacies. 1. The Holy Book of Allah 2. Members of my own house holds (Ahl-ul-Bait). As long as you resort to the Book and (my) house hold you will not be misled. These will remain together until the Day of Judgment.

2. The Prophet (S) said: The example of my household is like Noah's ship. Whoever comes aboard this ship is saved. And whoever commits the infraction (of not joining my relatives) is drowned.

3. The Ghadir Tradition — One the 18th day of Zilhajj of the year 10 A.H., when the Prophet (S) was returning from his last Hajj, in a place between Macca and Medina, called Ghadir-e-Khum, Gabriel descended to the Prophet (S) and brought with him this verse.

"O apostle! deliver (**) what has been revealed to you from your Lord; and if you do it not, then you have not delivered His message, and Allah will protect you from the people; surely Allah will not guide the unbelieving people." Qoran (5:67).

Conclusion:

The leadership (Imamat) problem has Qoranic, narrative, historical, and rational evidence and reasons. In our opinion, in each age in the history of Islam, Muslims need a fully-qualified leader. In our present age, when we do not have the possibility of daily leadership by one of the immaculate Imams (AS), a Muslim leader should have the following qualifications.

1. Ijtihad — The ability to independently extract Islamic rulings from Islamic sources.

2. Qualities of justice and virtue.

3. Political and social vision.

4. Managerial skills and courage.

It is for these reasons that the Muslim people of Iran have chosen Imam Khomeini as the Leader of the Revolution and of the political system. Under the hardest conditions, brought about by the imposed war and international pressures, this nation has not for a moment reneged its pact with its Leader.





هكذا من الأصل

APRIL 24, 1997 / ...

Ali Is With Truth, and Truth Is With Ali (AS)

Imam Ali (AS) described the nature of receiving such missionary upbringing in his own eloquent words:

"...you know my close kinship and special relationship with the Prophet of Allah (S). When I was only a child he took charge of me. He used to press me to his chest and lay me beside him in his bed, bring his body close to mine and make me smell his fragrance. He used to chew something and then feed me with it. He found no lie in my words, nor weakness in my actions.

"From the time of his weaning, Allah put a mighty angel with him to take him along the path of high character and good behavior through day and night, while I used to follow him like a young camel following in the footsteps of its mother. Every day he would show me, in the form of a banner, some of his high traits and commanded me to follow it. Every year he used to go into seclusion on the hill of Hira', where I saw him but no one else saw him. In those days Islam did not exist in any house except that of the Prophet of Allah (S) and Khadijah, while I was the third after these two. I used to see and watch the effulgence of Divine Revelation and breathed the scent of Prophethood.

"When the revelation descended on the Prophet of Allah (S), I heard the moan of Satan.

"I said 'O Prophet of Allah, what is this moan?'

"He replied, 'This is Satan, who has lost all hope of being worshipped. You see all that I see and you hear all that I hear, except that you are not a prophet, but you are a vicegerent and you are surely on (the path of) virtue.'"(1)



These resounding words are augmented with what has been preserved in historical records of Imam Ali's (AS) biography and show the level which he reached in the course of the missionary preparations planned for him by the Messenger of Allah (S) in order to make him fit to shoulder the burden of the ideological and political leadership of the nation..

The grooming of Imam Ali (AS), by the Prophet (S), began in his early childhood when actually he was the Messenger's adopted son, reared in his lap. This closeness helped Imam Ali (AS) to follow the Holy Prophet's (S) wake, in a way that was never offered to anyone else.

In addition to what was bestowed by the Holy Prophet (S) on Imam Ali (AS) during his growing years, he received further missionary training and wider preparation from the start of the blessed Mission till the last hour of the Messenger's life. Evidence is abounding during the life of the Messenger of Allah (S), and Imam Ali (AS) himself was eager to exact and truthfully follow the Prophet in his conduct. The Prophet (S) would stay with Imam Ali (AS) alone for hours, days and nights, deepening his absorption of the concepts of the Mission and its great transforming task commenced by the Prophet (S). He also taught him the methods and actions of how to complete what had been begun by the Messenger of Allah (S) himself.

Al-Nisa'i, on the authority of Abdullah bin Amr bin Hind al-Jamali, quoted Imam Ali (AS) as having said, "Whenever I asked the Messenger of Allah (S) for something he used to give it to me, and if I did not, he used to remind me." (2)

Ibn Abbas narrates that Imam Ali (AS) said, "I used to confer with the Prophet (S) twice, in the daytime and at night..."

Abu Sa'id al-Khidri said, "The Prophet (S) used to receive Ali in a special way in which he received no one else."

Abdullah bin Yahya quoted Imam Ali (AS) as saying:

"I used to call on the Prophet (S) every night. If he was reciting his prayers, he used to say, 'Subhan Allah' (glory be to Allah), then I would go in; if he was not praying, he would ask me to enter."(3)

Um Salamah said, "I swear by what Um Salamah swears that Imam Ali (AS) was the nearest of all people to the Messenger of Allah (S). On the day in which the Messenger of Allah (S) died, he sent for Imam Ali (AS). I think he sent him on an errand. Then,



Holy Prophet: "Whomsoever I am master 'Ali is his master too."

three times he asked if Ali had come back. Ali came back before dawn. We guessed that he wanted to see him in private so we went out of the room, which was A'ishah's. I was the last to leave the room, and thus I sat next to the door from outside. Imam Ali (AS) bent intently towards confiding to him secrets in a whisper." (4)

The Holy Prophet On Imam Ali's Merits

The merits of Imam Ali (AS) are recorded in many authorized texts as the following examples:

1. The Messenger of Allah (S) said:

"Ali's position among you is like the Ka'ba's..." (5)

That is, as the Ka'ba unifies the direction of the ummah at times of prayer before Allah, the Exalted, and at times of performing the rites of Hajj and Umrah, similarly adherence to Ali is a central focus for Muslims.

2. Imam Ali (AS) is the "Right Path" who, exceptionally, inspires the ummah with divine knowledge and legislative information after the Messenger of Allah (S).

"Ali is the gate to my knowledge and the explainer to my ummah after me of what I had been sent with. Loving him is faith and hating him is hypocrisy..." (6)

He (S) also said:

"I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its gate." (7)

3. Imam Ali (AS) followed the Messenger of Allah (S) in establishing justice among the ummah.

Holy Prophet: "O Allah! Love him Who Loves Ali, and be enemy of the enemy of Ali, help him who helps Ali, and forsake him who forsakes Ali."

The Messenger of Allah (S) said:

"O Abu Bakr, my hand and Ali's are the same in (establishing) justice." (8)

4. The Messenger of Allah (S) describes Imam Ali (AS) as "his likeness".

Ahmad bin Hanbal, in his "Musnad," quotes Abdullah bin Hantab, saying: "The Messenger of Allah (S), addressing a delegation of Thaqif that called on him, said: "You either accept Islam or I will send to you a man like myself who will strike off your heads, captivate your children and take your property.' Then he turned to Ali, held his hand and said, 'This is he, this is he!'" (9)

5. Imam Ali (AS) was the most learned man among all the Muslims, after the Messenger of Allah (S), with respect to jurisprudence. Concerning this, Anas bin Malik says: "The Messenger of Allah (S) said, 'The best judge among my people is Ali.'" (10)

The Messenger of Allah (S) considered Imam Ali (AS) to be the most suitable to administer the people's affairs and settle their disputes in their practical life.

6. Al-Mustafa (S) [the Chosen One]; that is, the Messenger of Allah, said:

"Ali is with truth, and truth is with Ali; they never part until they come to me at the pool on the Day of Resurrection." (11)

7. As Imam Ali (AS) was tinted with the truth to which Allah had guided his servants, and never parted from it, the Messenger of Allah (S) invited his people to follow him and merge their lifestyle with his to save them from going astray and following other paths which would lead them astray. The Messenger of Allah (S) said:

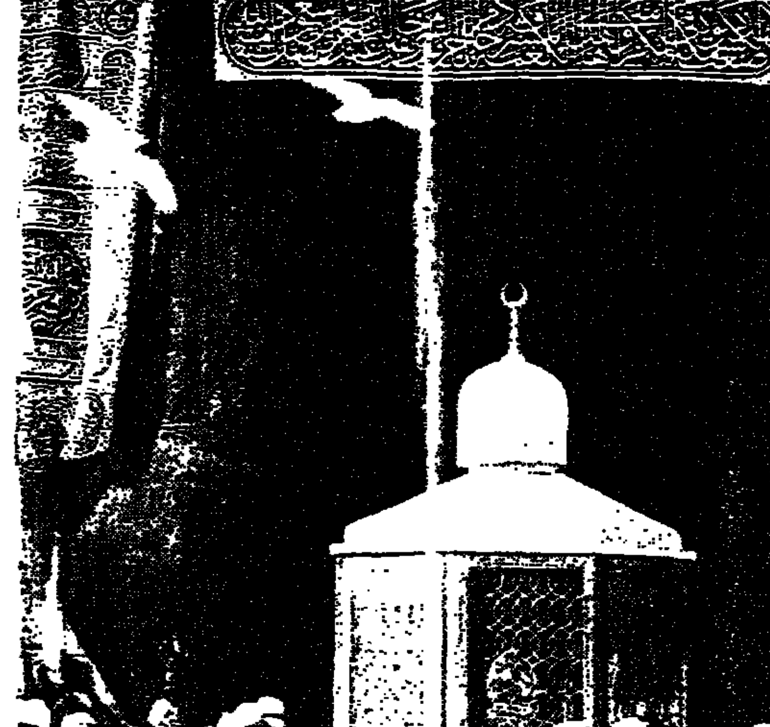
"After me there will be tumults, so keep close to Ali bin Abi Talib, as he will be the first to see me and shake hands with me on the Day of Resurrection. He is (near me) in upper heaven, and he is the arbiter between the right and wrong." (12)

8. As for Imam Ali's (AS) faith, the Messenger of Allah (S) said:

"If the heavens and the earth are put on a scale (of balance) and Ali's faith is on the other scale, Ali's faith will be heavier." (13)

His Right to Imamate

The texts on which the question of the Imamate of the Ummah are ideologically and politically based are as follows:



1. The Verse of Wilayah (guardian):

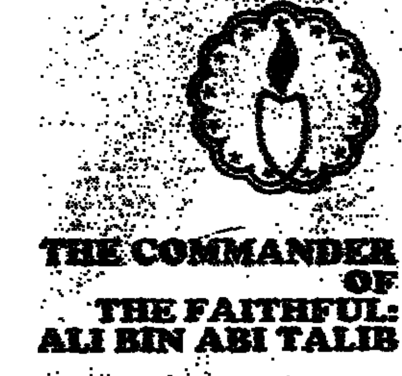
"Your guardian (wali) is Allah, His Messenger and those who believe and who keep up the prayer and pay zakat (poor-alms) while they are bowing (in prayer). And who takes as guardians Allah and His Messenger and those who believe, surely the party of Allah, they are the victorious."

(Holy Qoran (5:55-56)

Interpreters of the Qoran say that this verse was revealed in clear reference to Ali bin Abi Talib (AS), and stress that the Islamic ummah should adhere to him as an Imam, and as the ideological and political authority after they Messenger of Allah (S). It is established beyond doubt that this verse was sent down in Ali's favor and that the reason for its revelation was that a beggar entered the Mosque of the Messenger Allah (S) asking the Muslims to help him. Imam Ali (AS), while bowing in prayer, extended to him his finger with a ring on it. The beggar took the ring and went away. Thus, he gave alms (zakat) while bowing in prayer, upon which the verse was revealed. (14)

2. Al-Ghadir Speech

This was the speech which the Messenger of Allah (S) delivered



after performing the rites of his 'Farewell Pilgrimage', that is, his last hajj.

Al-Barra' bin Azab says, "We came along with the Messenger of Allah (S) in the year of his last pilgrimage. When we reached a part of the road, he ordered congregational prayers to be held. Then he held Ali's hand and said in a loud voice, 'Am I not more vested to rule the believers than themselves?'

'O yes,' they (the congregation) answered.

"He again said, 'Am I not more vested to rule every believer than himself?'

'O yes,' they said again.

"Then raising the hand of Ali (AS), he said, 'Then this is the Wali (guide) over whoever I am a wali. O God, befriend whoever befriends him; O God, be hostile to whoever is hostile to him.'" (15)

Ahmad bin Hanbal says, "The Messenger of Allah (S) said, 'Whoever I am master (mowla) of, Ali is his master. O God, befriend whoever befriends him, be hostile to whoever opposes him.'" (16)

3. Um al-Mu'minin, Um Salamah, (The Messenger's wife) says, "The Messenger of Allah (S) said, 'Allah had chosen for every prophet a vicegerent. Ali is my vicegerent among my family, folk and people after me.'" (17)

These are some of the authentic Islamic texts which vested Ali bin Abi Talib (AS) with ideological and political authority over the Muslim ummah after the Holy Prophet (S). For further information, there are several authorized reference books on the subject. (18)

(Courtesy: Al-Balagh Foundation)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

Marruz-Zahran. After a short rest it headed for its next destination, Sarf. The sun has almost set at Sarf but the Holy Prophet did not offered evening-prayers here. He rather preferred to cover a sufficient distance and perform prayers near the hillocks of Mecca. Satisfied with the safe conclusion of his journey he comfortably passed the whole night at his last destination. It was Wednesday when the Messenger of God joyfully entered the sacred city of Mecca. He went round the House of God and thereafter became completely engrossed in prayers. In the meantime, Ali ibn Abi Talib also arrived. After performing the rites of pilgrimage the last Apostle of God bid good-bye to the House of God and left the sacred soil.

[illegible]

More than 100,000 travelers were accompanying him when the Holy Prophet started from Medina. By the time of the return-journey this number had increased not by hundreds but by thousands. It was the fore-noon of Thursday, the eighteenth of the month of Zil-haj 10 A.H. (21st March 633 A.D.) when this caravan reached Johfa with great dignity and grandeur. The town of Johfa is situated at a distance of 13 miles from Mecca. This is the junction from where routes for Medina, Egypt, Syria and Iraq radiate in different directions. On its border is a pond. In Arabic the synonym of the word pond or watering-place is 'Ghadeer'. Because of its location the terminology of Hadith (tradition) and History refer to it as 'Khum'.

The appreciation of this particular event that took place at 'Ghadeer-e-Khum' is difficult. Its eminence and importance cannot be fully conceived. Every aspect of this epoch-making incident achieved eternal fame and glory. On the edge of this inspiring and ex-hilarating watering-place arrangements for the preservation of the Message of God were completed. It is a place scented with the spiritual fragrance which presents and ever blooming atmosphere of piety. The good news guaranteeing protection of the Islamic civilization, a refined order of justice and the glorious devotions of the Holy Prophet flashed from there. This was the same place where the sincere and long-awaited desire of the Apostle of God were fulfiled.

The Holy Voice of Heaven

Reaching the border of Ghadeer the caravan had to halt unexpectedly. Why? Because, archangel Gabriel had come down with the word of God and the Apostle of God was all ears to the voice of heaven. God ordained:

"O Apostle! deliver what has been revealed to you from your Lord; and if you do it not, then you have not delivered His message, and Allah will protect you from the people." (Quran, 5:68)

The trustee of the words of God conveyed the divine proclamation and the Holy Prophet entrusted all his energies for its proper execution and accomplishment. It was terribly hot. The earth was burning like fire. Some people had gone forward and some were left behind. The Prophet of Islam recalled the swift-footed persons and sent a message advising the slow-moving to reach him quickly. The Prophet of Islam recalled the swift-footed persons and sent a message a dvising the slow-moving to reach him quickly. The ardent lovers of the Apostle of God began to flock together group by group. The Prophet gave instruc-



tions for making arrangements and setting in order a meeting-place where the divine wish may be proclaimed. He ordered the people to be seated and told them that nobody should occupy a place around those five gum-acacia trees which were in front of them. The pulpit-platform, he said, should be erected under the shadow of the gumacacia trees, the ground to be encompassed should also be cleared and swept. And as to the pulpit, the camels' pack-saddles were to be placed. The arrangements being thus completed it was already time for noon-prayers! Bilal in a melodious tone proclaimed the call for prayer. People began to form lines. The Holy Prophet walked briskly towards his place of prayer and started praying. As soon as the prayers were completed the Beloved Messenger of God cast a glance of surprise and astonishment over the surging crowd and gracefully moved towards the unique and historic pulpit.

From the Height of The Pulpit

The possessor of unique distinction of 'not speaking out of personal desire' gracefully ascended the pulpit, glanced at the anxious crowd and started his speech cast in the mould of revelation:

"All praise is for God. We seek only His help. We have Faith in Him. We rely only upon Him. Also we seek shelter with Him from blemishes of our character and evil desires. There is no guide for one who goes astray and one whom He guides nothing can cause him to deviate from the right path. I witness that there is no 'God worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad and His servant and Messenger". Therefore, — the Prophet said, "God, the Knower of subtleties and the Aware has apprised me that no prophet had lived more than half of the age of his predecessor. Now very soon I shall meet death. Yes! what about the message of God? Look here! in this respect not only will I be held responsible but you also will be interrogated. Now let me know what would be your answer?"

The historians relate that in reply to this question of the Holy Prophet the surging congregation of 150,000 persons with one voice said, "O God! we witness that you have ably performed the responsibilities of Prophethood, advised us and constantly kept yourself busy for our guidance. God may bestow upon you His reward". The stream of eloquence overflowed again and the 'interlocutor of the Holy of Holies' continued his fascinating discourse. "Do you not acknowledge that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah, and Muhammad is His servant and Apostle? Do you not believe that His Paradise, His Hell, His Law of Death, the Prospective Doomsday (devoid of any doubt or suspicion) and restoration of life afresh on the Day of Resurrection are incumbent and positive?"

The participants of the congregation said in chorus. "Without the slightest doubt we unequivocally affirm all these eternal truths". When the voices gradually died down the Prophet said. "O God! be our witness". Then he enquired, "Is my voice reaching all of you?" The Muslims replied in the affirmative saying, "Yes my Lord! every word of yours is piercing our hearts", Continuing his sermon the Apostle of God said, "I am reaching the Fountain of Kausar before you and you all will follow me. The width of the Fountain of Paradise would be equal to the distance that lies between Sana'a and Basra (the way between Yemen and Syria). What to say of the number of silver bowls and drinking vessels? They are countless like the stars in the sky. Now it is to be seen that after me with what respect you regard these two most precious things that I shall leave behind".

At this stage somebody from the crowd said loudly, "O Apostle of God! what do you mean by these two most precious things?" The Prophet replied, "One is the Book of God. One end of which is in the Hand of God, the Glorious and Majestic and the other is in your hands. Hold it fast, lest you deviate from the right path. And the second valuable thing is 'my Descendents'. God, the Knower of the subtleties and the Aware has informed me that both these things will never separate from each other till they reach me at the Fountain of Kausar. — (their union is eternal). I have also sought the same for them from my God. You should never dare to linger behind or surpass them. If you venture to do so you would be doomed and ruined".

Saying this the Prophet of Islam taking the hand of Ali, raised it high to its full extent. And then he addressed the grand mammoth gathering in these words, "O Muslims! let me know, who else has got more power over the believers than they themselves?" The audience replied, "God and His Prophet know it better". Hearing this the 'confident of the Holy Secrets' declared from the heights of the pulpit of Ghadeer, "God is my Master. I am the master of the faithful and I have right over them even more than they themselves possess. Therefore, of whomsoever I am master* Ali is his master too".

The historians write that the Messenger of God repeated this sentence thrice. But Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal insists that the Prophet repeated this sentence not three times but four times. After that the Prophet said. "O My God! Be a Friend of him who is a friend of Ali and treat him like a Foe who opposes Ali. Help them who help Ali and abandon them who go against Ali. And O My Lord! Whichever way may Ali turn orient the Right is in the same direction". He continued, "Look here! this is binding upon them who are here that they should convey this message to those who are not present".

The celebrated historian Muhammad bin Jarir Tabari (deceased 310 A.H.) in his book 'Al-Wilaya' with reference of the famous companion. Zaid bin Arqam (died in 66 A.H.) has discussed a few more parts of the sermon. According to this description the Prophet at the end said, "O Muslims! say that we pledge for this. We give our word of honour and extend our hand in allegiance. We shall transmit your message to our children and other members of our family. We shall not make any sort of alteration or change in it. You should stand witness to our pledge and acknowledgment and for this God's witness is enough". Later the Prophet said, "Gentlemen! repeat whatever I have said and salute Ali on his designation and the Commander of the faithful".

Zaid bin Aqram narrates that at the end of the Prophet's discourse people advanced group by group towards the pulpit and amidst the tumult of greetings and congratulations they began to swear allegiance to Imam Ali.

According to the research of the commentators, in the meantime, the possessor of the Revelation descended with this word of God. ***"This day have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favour on you and chosen for you Islam as a religion". (Quran, 5:3).***

Hadith Of Ghadir Is Mutawatir

In the Holy Prophet, I have given this following two extracts (taken from authentic Sunni books) from the said Khutba (lecture) of the Holy Prophet:

"I am leaving behind, among you, two most precious things...1) the Book of Allah...2) my descendents who are my family members. They will not be separated from each other until they come to me near *Kauthar* (in Qiyamat). Verily Allah is my Master and I am the master of every believer. (Then he took the hands of Ali and said) Everyone whose Master am I, 'Ali is his master."

These two traditions are referred to as the traditions of *Two Precious Things* (Thaqalain) and of *Wilayat* (Mastership). They are jointly and severally narrated by hundreds of traditionalists (Muhaddithin).

Nawwab Siddique Hasan Khan of Bhopal says:

"Hakim Abu Said says that the traditions of Two Precious Things and of 'Whose master am I, 'Ali is his Master', are *Mutawatir* (i.e., narrated by so many people that no doubt can be entertained about their authenticity), because a great number of the companions of the Prophet have narrated them. So much so that Mohammad bin Jarir has written those two traditions by 75 different Chains (Asnad)." *(Minhaj al-Wusul, p. 13)*

Some writers have tried to cast doubt on the authenticity of the events of Ghadir. It is necessary to mention that this Hadith is Mutawatir; and the late renowed scholar 'Allama 'Abd'l Hussain Amini in a number of volumes of his celebrated book *'Al-Ghadir'* has given with full references the names of 110 famous companions of the Holy Prophet; who have narrated this Hadith. Just to give an example, I am enumerating the names given under letter *Alif*. The years of death are given in brackets:

1. Abu Laila Ansari (37 A.H.) 2. Abu Zainab bin Awf Ansari. 3. Abu Fudhala Ansari (38 A.H.) 4. Abu Qudama Ansari. 5. Abu Umrabbin Amr bin Muhassan Ansari. 6. Abul-Haitham bin al-Taihan (27 A.H.) 7. Abu Rafey Qibti, the slave of the Holy Prophet. 8. Abu Dhuwaib Khuwailad (or Khalid) bin Khalid al-Hadhli. 9. Usama bin Zaid bin Haritha (54 A.H.) 10. Ubayy bin Kaab Ansari. 11. As'as bin Zurara Ansari. 12. Asma bint Umais. 13. Ummu Salma wife of the Holy Prophet. 14. Ummu Hani bint Abi Talib. 15. Abu Hamza Anas bin Malik Ansari. 16. Abu Bakr bin Abi Qahafa, and of course Abu Huraira.

And there are not less than 84 *Tabe'in* (desciples of the companions) who narrated this Hadith from the above mentioned companions.

Again, the list under Alif is given here as a sample:

1. Abu Rashid Hibrani Shami. 2. Abu Salma bin Abdur-Rahman bin Awf. 3. Abu Salman Muadhdhin. 4. Abu Saleh Samman Khakwan Madani. 5. Abu Unfowama Mazini. 6. Abu Abdur-Rahman Kindi. 7. Abul Qasim Asbagh bin Nubata. 8. Abu Laila Kindi. 8. Ayas bin Nudhain.

And the traditionalists have narrated this Hadith in their books in every century and every era. Just to give an example, I am giving the names of those writers and scholars who have narrated this Hadith in the second century of Hijra:-

1. Abu Mohammad Amr bin Dinar al-Jamahi al-Makki (115 - 116 A.H.) 2. Abu Bakr Mohammad bin Muslim bin Ubaidullah al-Qarashi Zuhri (124 A.H.). 3. Abdur-Rahman bin Qasim bin Mohammad bin Abi Bakr Taimi Madani (126 A.H.). 4. Bakr bin Suwada bin Thamama Abu Thamama Basri (124 A.H.). 5. Abdullah bin Najih Yasar Thaqafi Abu Yasar Makki (131 A.H.). 6. Hafidh Mughira bin Muqassim Abu Hesham Dhabbi Kufi (133 A.H.). 7. Abu Abdur Rahman Khalid bin Zaid Jamahi Misri (139 A.H.). 8. Hassan bin al-Hakam Nakh-e Kufi (cir. 140 A.H.). 9. Idris bin Yazid Abu Abdullah Awadi Kufi. 10. Yahya bin Said bin Hayyan Taim Kufi (145 A.H.). 11. Awf bin Abi Jamila 'Abdi Hujri Basri (146 A.H.). 12. Hafidh Abdul Malik bin Abi Sulaiman Arzami Kufi (145 A.H.). 13. Ubaidullah bin Umar bin Hafs bin Asim bin Umar bin Khattab Awadi Madani (147 A.H.). 14. Naim bin al-Hakim Madani (148 A.H.). 15. Talha bin Yahya bin Talha bin Ubaidullah Taimi Kufi (148 A.H.). 16. Abu Mohammad Kathir bin Zaid Aslami (cir. 150 A.H.). 17. Hafidh Mohammad bin Ishaq Madani (151-152 A.H.). 18. Hafidh Muammar bin Rashid Abu Urwa Azdi Basri (153-154 A.H.). 19. Hafidh Musar bin Kadim bin Dhahir Hilali Rawasi Kufi (153-154 A.H.). 20. Abu Isa Hakam bin Aban Adani (154-155 A.H.). 21. Abdullah bin Shawdham Balakhi Basri (157 A.H.). 22. Hafidh Shuba bin Jajjaj Abu Bastam Wasiti Basri (160 A.H.). 23. Hafidh Abul-Ula Kamil bin al-Ula Tamimi Kufi (cir 160 A.H.). 24. Hafidh Sufyan bin Said Thauri Abi Abdullah Kufi (161 A.H.). 25. Hafidh Israil bin Yunus bin Abi Ishaq Sabai Abu Yusuf Kufi (162 A.H.). 26. Jafar bin Ziyad Kufi Ahmar (165 A.H.). 27. Muslim bin Salim Nadhi Abu Farwa Kufi. 28. Hafidh Qais bin Rabii Abu Mohammad Asadi Kufi (165 A.H.). 29. Hafidh Hammad bin Salma Abu Salma Basri (167 A.H.).

Thus this Hadith continues to be narrated by so many *Ruwat* (narrators) in every era as to make it Mutawatir several times. Coming to the scholars and writers who have narrated this Hadith in their books of traditions, it is enough to mention that 'Allama Amini has narrated the names of 360 scholars century-wise.

Some people have tried to put doubt about the *Asnad* of this Hadith. As was mentioned in *'Qoran and Hadith'*, if a Hadith is Mutawatir, there is no need to look at individual Asnad at all. Still to show the hollowness of this charge, I would like to give here opinions of some of the famous traditionalists.

(Courtesy: Al-Balagh Fondation)



هكذا من الأصل

It Was Announced During Tehran Governor General's Visit

Tehran Rolling Mill Steel Production Co. Is Only Three Percent Dependent on Foreign Resources

Before the auspicious Eid ul-Azha, the Rolling Mill Steel Production Co. was visited by Tehran governor general, Mr. Seyedzadeh.

He was accompanied by Engineer Keroushavi, governor general's advisor for industrial affairs.

First, Engineer Mohammad Mahdi Tavassoli, managing director of Rolling Mill Steel Production Co. gave a report on the history of establishment and the production process of the company saying: Rolling Mill Steel Production Co. is one of the oldest companies in the country and perhaps the first hot rolling unit active in manufacturing sheets with different alloys. The company, located at 19th kilometer of Karaj former road, was founded in 1968.

He added: The company first started work as a molding unit, but a few years later it took the first steps to manufacture steel structures. With the modernization of the molding system (transforming the fuel furnaces to electric furnaces) the whole unit was transformed into hot rolling one.

Five years after the establishment of rolling unit, i.e. in 1973, the machine-making unit was added to the units of the company.

On the achievements of the company after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, the managing director of the company said: At the beginning of the revolution, in 1978, due to its hot rolling system, the company was nationalized by the Council of Revolution. Until 1992 it was affiliated to the government management.

But in '92, according to the ratification of Council of Revolution the company was transformed into a public joint stock. Almost 67 percent of the shares was transmitted to former stockholders and it was decided the other 33 percent be given to the personnel of the company and employees of other companies through stock exchange market. So far 14 percent of the shares has been transmitted.



Tehran governor general and the entourage visit the production line and Engineer Tavassoli briefs the visitors.

Referring to the 400,000,000 rials of the company's first capital, which has been spent on the gradual development of the company, the managing director of Rolling Mill Steel Production Co. said in 19992 the capital was increased up to 2,000,000,000 rials, and in the years 1995 and 1996 in two steps it was added to 6,000,000,000 rials and 10,000,000,000 rials.

Referring to the fact that his company is collaborating with the banks of Sepah and Tejarat in facilities, Tavassoli said until 1992 the company needed some 20 million dollars to keep its production line working.

Since then, doing some changes in the production line of the company and with the utilization of Mobarakeh Steel Mill's products, the responsible authorities of the company could procure the major part of its raw materials from domestic markets in a way that the company is only three percent dependent on foreign markets. Such a percent is so trivial when compared with the total value of the products.

Engineer Tavassoli said the annual production rate of the company stands at 70,000 tons 'and the company is manned by 550 employees.'

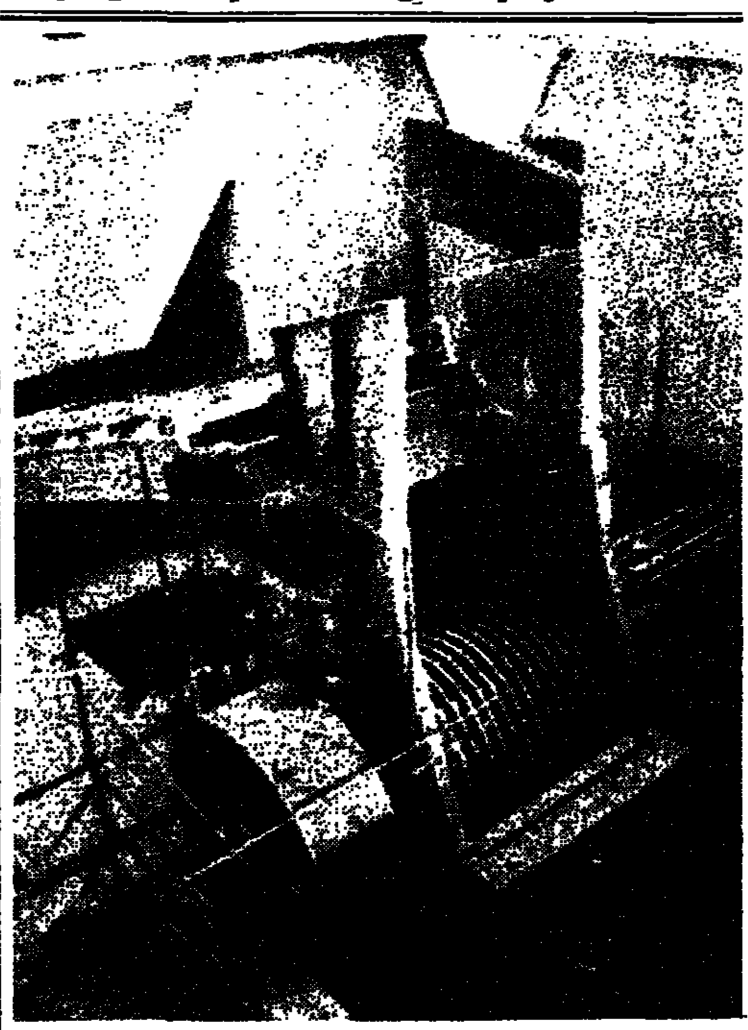
Elsewhere he said: The company's products (steel pieces and machinery) play a major role in meeting the requirements of the giant industries of the country such as Sarcheshmeh Copper Company, metro, factories and other industries.

Of the most successful achievements of the company, the managing director referred to execution of irrigation plan of Sarakhs, manufacturing the largest water tanks of Mena in the holy city of Mecca, manufacturing stone-crushing machinery for cement factories of Hegmatan, Hormozgan, and other cement factories of the country.



Tehran governor general visits the equipped laboratory of the company.

Tehran Rolling Mill Steel Production Co. is playing an active role in manufacturing and procuring industrial pieces for Sarcheshmeh Copper Co., metro, and specially stone-crushers for cement factories of Hormozgan, Hegmatan as well as carrying out important irrigation projects.



The stone-crusher of cement factories, now working in Hegmatan and Hormozgan cement factories.

He added the company's products during the war and its capabilities in reconstruction of the country after the war, has been eye-catching.

He outlined the present activities of the company in four groups of manufacturing machinery, steel structures unit, molding unit, and rolling unit and stressed the prime objective of the company 'is to bring the reconstruction and development plans of the country in conformity with the prerequisites of domestic raw materials.'

He went on to say: 'Right now the company is busy manufacturing machinery for development plan of Mobarakeh Steel Mill, a part of which has been manufactured and despatched to the mill.

Tehran Governor General Expresses His Satisfaction

Following the comprehensive report of Engineer Tavassoli, the managing director of the company, the governor general of Tehran, accompanied by his advisor for industrial affairs and the entourage visited the production line of the company and its equipped laboratory.

Then, Mr. Seyedzadeh said: Let me first appreciate the valuable achievements of this industrial unit which is a manifestation of self-sufficiency and reconstruction in the country. I feel happy indeed, to see a small industrial unit doing giant tasks.

Tehran governor general, then, said 'the secret of success in this unit is in efficient management and achievement of the Islamic council and other responsible authorities of the company as well as creative laborers, who all spared no efforts in the production aims to make their company profitable.'

The governor general finally expressed his satisfaction of manufacturing stone- crushers in high quality in this unit.

Database Management Systems (DBMS) with dBASE IV

(Part 1)

By Ali Shahrbabaki

The word dBASE may not be familiar with some of the readers, but they will be surprised to know that programs like FoxPro, FoxBase, Clipper, etc. related to Database Management Systems (DBMS), all started from dBASE.

dBASE stands for 'Database.' and is one of the founder members of the DBMS family. In this, as well as the forthcoming issues, I will try to explain the concept & fundamentals of DBMS using dBASE IV developed by Ashton Tate.

Before we go to the concept of database, I would first explain the concept of a computer file. A FILE is a collection of information, stored on the computer in the form of magnetic media (disk). A file may contain information relating to a person (document), an application (program file) or simply anything.

In dBASE, a file is a collection of Records. A Record is a collection of information relating to one person, an event, or a transaction. For example, in the list mentioned in Table 1.

The line Marjan — 24 — Iranian is a valid record & is related to a person with the name of Marjan who is Iranian, and is 24 years old. But Marjan — 11 — English is not a related to anything and thus is not a valid record.

dBASE IV is a new database management system which provides us with organized information. Conceptually, dBASE likens itself to word processor in that it allows you to create data files and change them as the need arises.

dBASE IV allows you to build data files; modify its structure as your application needs changes; and add; edit or delete information in your files. This is made possible through the use of powerful English-like commands. It not only satisfies most of your needs with procedure generated special processes, it further enables you to use procedures to construct exactly what you want the computer to do for you in a specific circumstance. This process not only makes custom, deluxe, "designed-for-you" computer output, but is also a very practical way to save you work.

HELP AND ASSISTANCE

dBASE IV provides two kinds of direct assistance to users. The first, called the dBASE assistant, uses menus to provide you access to the basic database management capabilities. The second, HELP, provides information about how to use dBASE and the dBASE command language.

Before we start designing our first computer databases, let us familiarize ourselves with some useful commands.

CREATE

To create a new data file

USE

To select a named file to work with.

APPEND

To input data into a file.

LIST

To scroll through file contents on the screen.

DISPLAY

To list file records screen by screen.

EDIT

To correct file records by specifying record numbers.

BROWSE

To view, add and edit entire file all at once.

REPLACE

To change a certain field in the record.

DELETE

To mark the record to be removed.

RECALL

To recover a marked for deletion record.

PACK

To remove the deleted record permanently.

MODIFY

To change (often used to MODIFY STRUCTURE of a data file).

ERASE

To remove a complete file from the disk directory

CLOSE

To shut an open file.

COPY

To duplicate files without exiting to the operating system.

CONVENTIONS

For a file name, it may be up to 8 characters long, it must start with a letter, may include letters, numbers and underscores but must not contain embedded spaces.

The many types of dBASE IV files are identified by their suffixes. Some of the file suffixes are shown in Table 2.

dBASE IV also categorizes its data types where

C denotes character data with text up to 254 characters

N denotes numeric data with a sign and decimal point

L denotes logical data such as Y,y,T,t for true or N,n,F,f for false

M denotes memo data with documents upto 4000 characters.

D denotes dates in mm/dd/yy format.

Commands

ASSIST

Switches from the interactive dot prompt mode to the menu driven assist mode.

DIR

Displays the names of database (.dbf) files on the currently logged drive and directory.

DISPLAY

Displays the data from records in a database (.dbf) file.

DISPLAY MEMORY

Displays the names, data types, and contents of all currently active memory variables.

DISPLAY STATUS

Displays information about the database (.dbf) files currently in use and other dBASE environmental parameters.

DISPLAY STRUCTURE

Display the structure of the database file currently in use.

HELP

Provides on-line assistance for specific dBASE commands and other information.

COPY

Copies the database in use to another file.

COPY FILE

Makes a copy of any file.

CREATE

Creates a new database (.dbf) file.

CREATE LABEL

Creates a new (.lbl) file for printing mailing label.

CREATE REPORT

Creates a report format (.frm) file that defines the format and heading for printing reports

CREATE SCREEN

Creates a format (.fmt) file for entering and editing records on



a database through a custom screen

CREATE VIEW

Creates a view (.vue) file for setting up a relationship between related files with at least one identical field

EXPORT

Creates a PFS file from the dBASE database file.

IMPORT

Create a database file from a PFS file

INDEX

Creates an index (.NDX) file from a database file in use, for maintaining sort orders, maximizing the speed of searches, and defining relationship among multiple database.

JOIN

Combines the fields of two related database in to a new database.

MODIFY COMMAND

Creates a command (.prg) file (a program)

MODIFY STRUCTURE

Allows changes to an existing database (.dbf) file

SAVE

Saves memory variables to a memory (.mem) file on disk

SET ALTERNATIVE

Opens a text file that captures all activity on the screen.

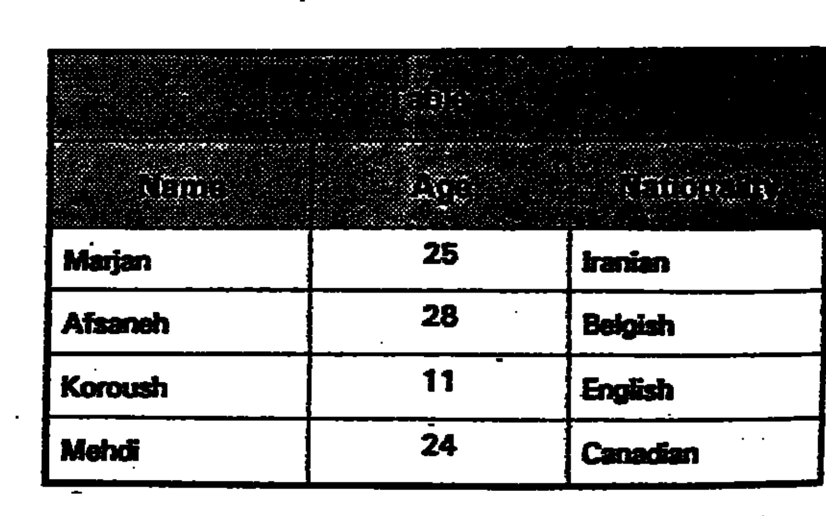
SET CATALOG

Creates a catalog (.cat) file of all the files used in a particular application

TOTAL

Creates a summary of an existing file containing totals of specified numeric field

(To be Contd)



Name	Age	Nationality
Marjan	25	Iranian
Afsaneh	28	Belgish
Koroush	11	English
Mehdi	24	Canadian

Table 2

Suffix	Type of File
.DBF	Database file
.DBT	Memo fields file
.FMT	Format file
.FRM	Report form file
.TXT	Text output file
.MEM	Memory file
.NDX	Index file
.PRG	Command file
.LBL	Label form file



هكذا من الأصل



International Spectrum

A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU. APR. 24, 1997; ORDIBEHESHT 4, 1376; ZIL-HAJJEH 16, 1417

Iran Spectrum

A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, April 15

Dozens of Pilgrims Killed in Mecca Fire

Dozens of pilgrims were killed on as a huge fire swept through their camps near Meccca.

Mubarak Called On to Help Peace Process



A possible meeting between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy was still in doubt as they flew into Malta for a two-day Europe-Mediterranean conference.

Shia Leader Shot Dead in Pakistan

A prominent Shia Muslim leader was gunned down along with his security guard in central Pakistani's Okara City overnight in a suspected sectarian murder, police said.

Wednesday, April 16

Rebel Leader Arrives in S. Africa for Talks With Mandela



Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila arrived in South Africa for talks with President Nelson Mandela, giving new impetus to efforts to end the civil war in Zaire.

Earthquake Rocks Northwest China

A strong earthquake estimated at 5.8 on the Richter scale jolted northwest China, the Royal Hong Kong Observatory.

Thousands of Muslims Hold Disavowal of Pagans Rally

Tens of thousands of Muslims from different Islamic countries held a ceremony in Arafat to express their hatred of the enemies of Islam, specially the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

Thursday, April 17

Israeli Scandal Overshadows U.S. Peace Mission

U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross's mission to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks was overshadowed by the political scandal which has tarnished Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Okinawa Asks U.S. to Give Back More Land

The governor of Okinawa, where Japanese islanders strenuously object to a continued large-scale U.S. military predence, asked the Pentagon to give back more land, including a critical port.

Friday, April 18

Zairean Rebels Requisition 60,000 Liters of UN Aviation Fuel



Zairean rebels requisitioned 60,000 liters of aviation fuel used for planes chartered by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR) spokesman in Kisangani 'Paul Stromberg', said.

Asian Muslims Mark Eid Festival, Mourn for Hajj Fire Victims

Prayers for the dead marked the Eid-ul Azha festival as Muslims throughout Asia mourned the 350 Hajj pilgrims who died in a killer blaze near Mecca.

Explosions Rock Two Rail Stations After Warnings

Small explosions rocked two railway stations in northern England after a series of IRA-style coded bomb alerts shut down three stations and sections of a major motorway, paralyzing rush-hour traffic.

Saturday, April 19

Governing Coalition Chooses Gujral for Prime Minister

A fractious governing coalition settled on India's highly respected foreign minister to replace Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, United News of India said.

Netanyahu's Job Hangs by a Thread

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces an uncertain political future even if he escapes charges of influence-peddling, experts said.

Anti-Communist Alliance Wins in Bulgaria



The opposition anti-communist United Democratic Forces alliance has won an absolute majority in Bulgarian general elections, the independent Darik Radio station reported.

Sunday, April 20

Gujral Named New Indian Prime Minister



Inder Kumar Gujral became India's prime minister as the head of anew United Front coalition government, party officials said, signalling the end of three weeks of political turmoil.

Netanyahu Hunkers Down ahead of Indictment Verdict

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with cabinet members to try to ensure his government's survival only hours ahead of a state prosecutor's decision on whether to indict him on corruption.

Monday, April 21

China Military Advance, Party Arrives for Hong Kong Takeover



Led by a smiling-general, an unarmed advance guard of the Chinese army drove into Hong Kong to prepare for China's takeover of a colony where suspicions of the People's Liberation Army run deep.

Four Train Stations, Two Airports Evacuated After Bomb Threats

Bomb threats forced the evacuation of four mainline London rail stations and two airports, snarling the capital's transport system and threatening rush-hour gridlock.

Big Quake Hits Near Papua New Guinea

An earthquake measuring 7.7. on the Richter scale struck near Papua New Guinea, the Japanese meteorological agency said.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, April 15

President Receives Tajik Foreign Minister, Opposition Leader



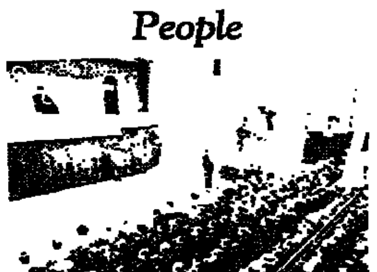
President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received Tajik Foreign Minister Talbek Nazarov and the leader of the Tajik opposition Abdullah Nouri.

Iran to Stage Amphibious Maneuvers in Persian Gulf

Amphibious military exercises, code-named "Tariq-ol-Quds" will be held in the Persian Gulf and parts of the Oman Sea next week, Major General Mohsen Rezaei, commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said here, on Tuesday.

Wednesday, April 16

Germany Loses Trust of Iranian People



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in a meeting with army commanders and personnel here said that the German government should pay a high price for its mistake, adding that Germany will be the main loser in this regard because it has lost the trust of Iranian people.

President Felicitates Heads of Islamic States on Eid-ul-Azha

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani cabled separate messages to the heads of all Islamic countries felicitating them on the auspicious occassion of Eid-ul Azha.

Chemical Weapon Victims Demonstrate Outside German Embassy



Thousands of war veterans wounded in chemical attacks during eight years of the imposed war by the Iraqi regime staged a protest rally outside German Embassy.

Thursday, April 17

Velayati Elaborates on His Visit to Tajikistan

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks with Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov in Dushanbe on Tehran-Dushanbe relations, forthcoming visit to Dushanbe of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and outcome of recent inter-Tajik peace talks, held in Tehran.

Friday, April 18

President Hails Iranian Armed Forces

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, on the occasion of the Army Day anniversary extolled the armed forces of Iran and called on them to maintain their combat readiness in light of the many conspiracies by the international camp of unbelievers against the country.

Fire Breaks Out in Azadi Theater



Fire of unknown origin broke out in Azadi Theater causing serious financial damage to the building housing the theater.

Saturday, April 19

President Inaugurates Several Development Projects

Four zinc manufacturing units in Zanjan, Bandar Abbas and Yazd came on stream simultaneously augurated by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Sunday, April 20

Iran, Russia to Manufacture Plane, Helicopter

Iran and Russia are to jointly manufacture passenger planes and helicopters in Iran, said the Minister of Industries Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh.

Monday, April 21

Iran Has Vast Experience in Optimal Use of Water Resources

President Hashemi Rafsanjani in a speech marking the opening of the Eighth International Conference on Rainwater Catchement Systems announced that Islamic Iran is prepared to place its valuable experience on optimal harnessing of water resources at the disposal of those countries which need it.

Like to See How Weird You Are?

Why can some people bend their feet behind their ears? And how about those contortionist characters who can rest their chins on their navels? We regard them all as pretty odd — but chances are, most of us are capable of at least one peculiar thing that other people can't manage.

To find out exactly how weird *you* are, check out the following unorthodox bodily skills and attributes and tot up your very own strangeness quotient.

1. Are You Double Jointed?

Despite the contortions you've seen your mates do at parties, doctors say there's no official condition known as 'double-jointedness' — if you did have two joints, chances are they wouldn't work very well.

It's just a colloquial way of saying somebody's ligaments have more mobility than another's. Twenty percent of people also have 'joint laxity' — where the capsule of the radius in the joints tend to be laxer and longer. It's an inherited characteristic most common among Asians.

Some people who suffer from an abnormality of the connective tissue may also have very mobile joints such as Abraham Lincoln — who could apparently pull astonishingly funny faces. He must have gone down a storm at parties.

Strangeness quotient: 2

2. Can You Wiggle Your Ears?

We all have muscles around the soft piece of the external ear, just beneath the skin. They're part of the general group of facial muscles that control facial expression. The auricular muscle controls the ears and in some people this muscle is simply more developed, allowing them to move their ears up and down — my, how we laugh at their antics. Animals like cats are able to flick their ears to expel mites and fleas, and it could be that our wiggling is 'an evolutionary remnant of the same skill.

Strangeness quotient: 2

3. Are You Color Blind?

Some people suffer from color blindness: an abnormal perception of one or more colors due to the absence of one or more photopigments in the cones of the retina. It's a genetically determined condition inherited as a sex-linked recessive character. It's more common in men (about 8 percent of the population) than in women at about 0.5 percent (although women may be symptomless carriers who pass it on to male children).

The most common form of color blindness is the failure to see red or green. A lack of red cones makes reds look almost gray and a lack of green cones makes green look gray and then makes oranges, browns and other colors hard to distinguish. But many people are unaware that they have defective color vision as they are able to differentiate color by their respective brightness.

Strangeness quotient: 1

4. Are You Ambidextrous?

It must be great to have what doctors call 'an extended range of ability' — the ability to use both their hands equally well. It's the result of the neural effects of nerve pathways in the brain.

If you are right-handed, the messages controlling your hand movements come from the left side of your brain and vice versa. But in some people both sides of the brain control the movements of both hands. If you are ambidextrous, you're something of a superhuman — rake in the points.

Strangeness quotient: 5

5. Do You Smell Things Others Miss?

Amazingly — and perhaps it's just as well — half the population can't smell sweat. And equally amazing is that how we smell things eludes precise scientific definition. We know in principle that molecules in the air are picked up by receptors on the surface of cells inside the nose, but that's about it.

These receptors trigger off signals that register in the brain. There are 25 million of these smell receptors located in a small patch at the top of each nostril. Some people have gaps in their sense of smell — the most common one being an inability to smell androsterone, a steroid found in human perspiration and celery. This lucky abnormality occurs in almost half the population.

It's also said that smells can bring back early memories — even to the extent of bringing back long-forgotten scenes from your infancy.

One of the possible reasons smells produce such vivid memories is that they are thought to be perceived in an older, more primitive part of the brain. Stone Age man relied on smell a lot more than we do now and so it comes as no surprise that this area of the brain is well developed.

Fred Dale runs Reminiscence Therapy sessions at hospitals using smells. "A smell can help someone remember what they were doing 50 years ago even though they can't remember two hours ago," says Fred, whose smell-pack for the elderly includes odors of an old hospital, First World War Christmas cake and the soot of a black fire range.

If there's either a particular substance that you *can't* smell, or something that you smell more keenly than other people, then you score here.

Strangeness quotient: 4

6. Do You Hear Sounds Others Can't?

Until recently, the only way to estimate someone's hearing capacity was by using a conversational or whispered voice and tuning forks. Since the invention of amplifiers and computer-driven audiometers, it has become possible to make objective measurements not only of hearing but of signals generated within the *cochlea* or the ear's spiral.

Humans can theoretically hear sounds in the bandwidth of 20Hz to 20,000Hz, and those who claim to hear other frequencies are usually suffering some simple medical problem like tinnitus.

However, some people suffer from hyper-acusis — they hear normal sounds much more loudly and spend most of their lives trying to escape the noise. Also there is a strange group of people in New Orleans that has an inherited capacity to hear only high frequencies. They are usually fitted with hearing aids which transpose these frequencies into bandwidths more appropriate for normal hearing.

Animals are better equipped for hearing and generating extreme frequencies. The lowest frequencies are made by Humpback whales, whose song ranges from 40Hz to 5kHz, and can be heard 30km away. At The other end of the scale, bats' hearing starts at 15kHz and goes up to 110kHz.

Strangeness quotient: 4

7. Can You Burp to Order?

We were too embarrassed to ask a specialist why and how this was possible but the Internet quickly gave us an answer. There's even a group of users with their own burping competition on the web: http://www.seanet.com/users/tberry/belch2.html.

Packed with info on how to create a classic burp the site is testament to the fact that you really *can* burp at will. According to these Net experts, there are two sorts of burp — a light one that forms in your lungs, known as a 'header', and a deep belch from the stomach called a 'tailer'.

Strangeness quotient: 1

8. Can You 'Funnel' Your Tongue?

Some of us can form our tongues onto a tube shape and some of us can't. So what's the point of it? One theory is that funneling the tongue is a reflex in babies which helps them breast-feed. The action of actually putting the tongue forward is called the 'extrusion reflex' and it enables babies to latch on to the breast. It could be that some lose this ability as they grow up, and others don't.

(To be continued next Thursday)



Funnelling your tongue: some of us retain from childhood our earliest feeding habits

Colour blindness: attempting to distinguish a loop of red and pink dots concealed in a random network of coloured dots. Men fail the test most



Moving your eyes separately: you may be able to do it, but you won't see much

Entertaining in Style

Quick Spaghetti Carbonara

You will need...

10 oz. quick cooking spaghetti
2 oz. butter
1 can egg and ham Hot Toast Savory
few shakes garlic salt, if liked
parsley sprigs

Preparation time
5 minutes
Cooking time
15 minutes

Cook spaghetti in a large saucepan of salted, boiling water for 12 minutes, or until tender.

Drain and place in a large hot serving dish. Add butter and hot toast savory, mix gently with a fork until butter and savory have softened.

Sprinkle with garlic salt, garnish with parsley, and serve immediately. Serve with a green salad.

Serves 4.

QUICK TIP

To keep hot if there are latecomers: the hot toast savory and butter can be put into a large saucepan with the spaghetti when cooked for up to 30 minutes, allowing the butter to melt slowly.

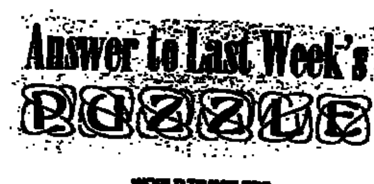


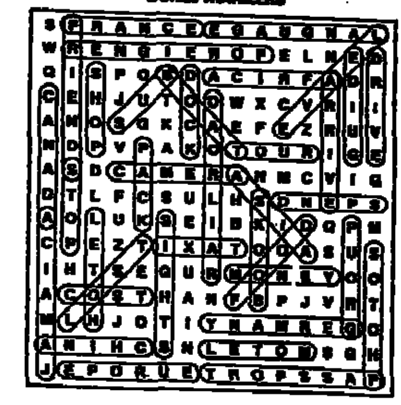


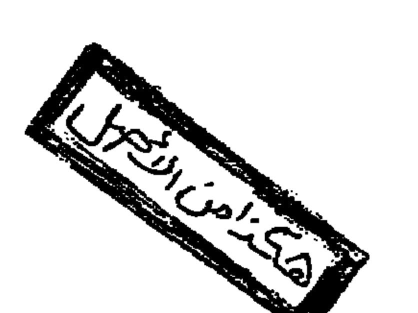
THE SPACE RACE

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BLAST
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CLIMB
COLONEL
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LEAVE
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PLANS
PROGRAM
PROPEL
PULL
REACH
REENTRY
ROCKET
ROLL
SEPARATE
SHOT
SHUTTLE
SKILLS
SOAR
SPACE
STATION
TRAVEL
TURN
WING







Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: *Austria*

The Dancing Horses of Lipica

The horses are not only entertaining. They are also a proud reminder of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, once stretching from Trieste to Prague, and from Salzburg to the Black Sea.

Emperor Ferdinand I of Hapsburg, who ruled Austria from 1556 to 1564, divided his empire into three parts in his will. His eldest son, Maximilian II, received the royal crown and the largest, northern part of the country, together with Vienna. The middle son, Archduke Ferdinand, was given the Tyrol in the west, while the youngest son, Archduke Charles, was left with the southern part stretching from Graz to Trieste.

Archduke Charles, son, brother and father to Hapsburg emperors, never himself became ruler of Austria, but one thing he did at the time was worthy of an emperor: he founded a stud-farm of thoroughbred horses which is still world-famous today.



The dancing horses of Lipizze (Austria), pride of the Vienna Spanish Riding School.

In 1580, Charles bought the estate of Lipitza (the Austrian court later changed the spelling from Lipitza to Lipizza and now Lipica) from the bishops of Trieste. Located some ten kms east of Trieste, the estate at that time consisted of the bishop's palace—still in existence though greatly changed in appearance—and a small settlement of Slovenian serfs. These peasants saw to the upkeep of the bishop's palace and gardens, cut wood for the bishop and cultivated the narrow strip of fertile land near the settlement which they rented.

Lipica is a small green oasis on the *karst* plateau lying between the Bay of Trieste and the valley of the river Vipava. The name *karst* in *Mediterranean regions is applied* to an area with a dry climate and arid rocky configuration composed of limestone and clay. Today we may only guess at the reasons which impelled the Archduke Charles to purchase the Lipica estate and to set up the court stud right in the middle of that *bleak karst region, short on water* and far removed from Vienna.



The stud at Piber.

After World War II Lipica became part of Yugoslavia. But life continued normally under the communist leaders, who claimed the Lipizzan horses as part of their national heritage.

Everything changed again in 1991, when Lipica became part of the newly created Republic of Slovenia. Today the original stud is now working as a cooperative and employs 50 people to rear and look after its 180 horses. Few vestiges remain of the original Imperial stud, but Lipica still maintains *deep within its walls the echoes of* silky crinolines and Grand Dukes.

Now the traditional Lipizzan horses—those destined to dance in Vienna—are reared in Piber, Austria. The village, located 40 kms from the magnificent Baroque city of Graz, became the official new home of the Lipizzans in 1920. Piber was the site of a military training school for riders and offers similar weather conditions as Lipica. There, some 230 to 250 horses are trained for the Vienna Spanish Riding School.

The stud at Piber is a popular place for tourists. Thousands of visitors stroll around the stalls and the museum every year. They learn how each year 12 three-year-old stalions are hand-picked to begin their careers in the glorious riding school of the Hofburg' Palace. The museum depicts the story of General Paton of the U.S. who, in 1945, transferred Lipizzan horses from Bohemia to Piber so that they would be safe from the bombs.

You can witness the Lipizzan horses dancing to the polkas and waltzes of Johann Strauss, a stage which takes three years of intensive training.

The tumultuous story finished in Vienna in the Hofburg Palace—former winter residence of Austrian Emperors. Here, of course, you can witness the Lipizzan horses dancing to the polkas and waltzes of Johann Strauss, a stage which takes three years of intensive training.

The dancing horses are amazing and the Spanish Riding School has delighted its guests since 1572. Under the high-ceilinged, white marble room built by the Baroque architect Josef Emanuel Fischer von Erlach, Lipizzan horses stand as last vestiges of a lost Austrian-Hungarian Empire. (Courtesy of *Emirates* inflight magazine, Nov. 1994.)

Answers to Last Week's Brain Teaser:

Mean, sound, light, jam, scale, ground, keen, founder, long, iron, peer, rail.

Brain Teaser



See if you can match the famous people listed below with their numbered quotations.

A. Corazon Aquino
B. Sam Goldwyn
C. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
D. Idi Amin
E. Robert Morley
F. Giuseppe Garibaldi
G. Olivia Newton-John
H. Joseph Goebbels
I. John F. Kennedy
J. Mikhail Gorbachev

1. Truth, this is all I ask from anyone in my country—that they tell the truth. If they don't they suffer and I feed them to the crocodiles and the wild dogs.

2. We can do without butter, but despite all our love of peace, not without arms.

3. It is a great help for a man to be in love with himself. For an actor, however, it is absolutely essential.

4. You should stay young as long as you can. Age is in your heart, not in your face.

5. A man of ordinary talent will always be ordinary whether he travels or not, but a man of superior talent will go to pieces if he remains forever in the same place.

6. What makes democracy work is people committed to freedom and the courage to defend it to the death.

7. If I only wanted power I would not have started reform.

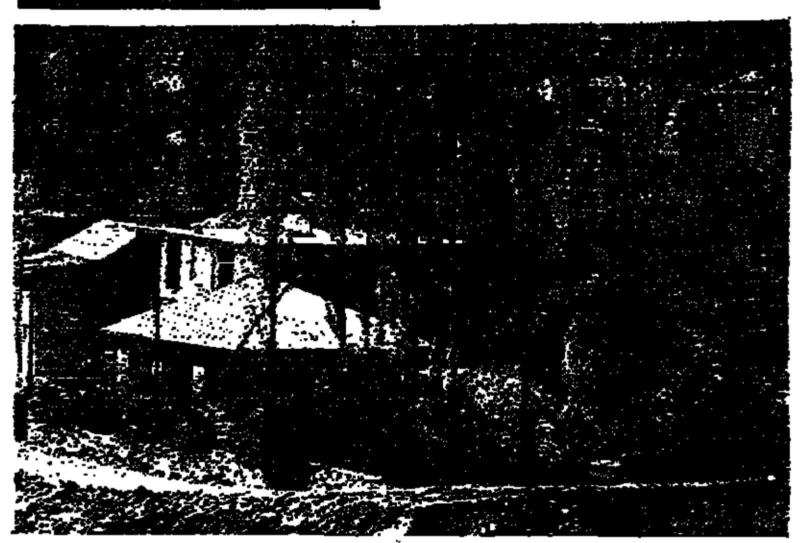
8. I offer neither pay, nor quarters, nor food. I offer only hunger, thirst, forced marches, battle and death.

9. Ask not what your country can do for you; rather, ask what you can do for your country.

10. I don't want any Yes-men around me. I want everyone to tell me the truth, even if it costs them their jobs.

(Answers will appear next week.)

Travelogue



Vacation facilities.

KELARDASHT:

Lost Paradise of Central Alborz

KELARDASHT, described as the lost paradise of Central Alborz, is situated in the foothills of Takhte Sulaiman. The southern coastline of the Caspian Sea holds a special place in Iran's history: it is an area of fascination and curiosity. Some historians believe the foundations of the Persian Empire are located here.

Invariably described as the "Emerald Gem" or the "Garden of Iran," the southern shores of the Caspian Sea have been transformed into a popular site for domestic and foreign tourists. Today it is a hub of leisure and recreation. Surrounded by mountains, Kelardasht is only a 30-40 minute drive from the seashores of Abbas Abad, where the joint pleasures of sea and mountain can be savored at close quarters. The ancient hillocks of Lahou provide excellent hiking terrain; the Sardab Rud River, rushing to join the Caspian Sea, provides excellent trout fishing. In winter, Kelardasht is suitable for cross-country skiing. The Namak Aabrud telecabin, upon extension, can be developed into hiking trails linking the Caspian Sea to Kelardasht.

To increase the attractions of this invaluable vacation cove, scattered villages have been converted into recreational centers. With the increase in oil revenues, the development of Kelardasht has been on the upswing. Resting houses and hotels are under construction at an accelerated pace.

LOCATION

Kelardasht is part of the city of Nowshahr in Mazandaran Province. It is one of four rural districts, having 45 villages and bounded by the *Caspian Sea to the north; the towns* of Chalus to the east, Kajur to the south and Shahsavar to the west. The central sector is Hasan Kayf, 21 kms from Marzan Abad village. Situated nearly 1200 meters above sea level, Kelardasht is indistinguishable from the Alpine slopes. The most distinct villages are Qujabeet, Qasr, Osman, Kala, Pay Qal'a, Tabarsou, Avijdan, Lahou, Baazaaras, Bareen, etc

Kelardasht can be reached by air via Nowshahr or by road via Chalus. Its population is 20,000, mainly Muslims.

PRODUCTIVE FEATURES

The main agricultural products of Kelardasht are wheat, barley, millet, grain and tobacco. Fruits, such as sweet cherries, apples, pears and prunes also grow in abundance. Handicrafts such as woolen cloth and socks are made by local residents. During recent years, its carpets have become popular abroad.

SIGHT-SEEING

Historical relics discovered during the 1939 renovation of a 10th century palace reveal that since ancient times this territory has possessed a distinguished civilization. Festivities, ceremonies and recreation facilities for wrestling and stick-dancing are still traditionally performed. Other attractions are the Walasht Lake in northeastern Kelardasht, the Larousar mineral waters in the Rudbarak Valley and the hot springs on the slopes of Haft'khwan Fort. Also worth a visit are the mineral waters of Bareen, Tuyedarreh, Aab Deleer and Peesh Sarak in the vicinity of Mejel village.

Kelardasht has abundant attractions. The splendor of the landscape, the combination of relaxation and recreation and the year-round accessibility make it one of the top places for visiting in Iran.



Kelardasht, on the foothills of the Alborz.

1967 — Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov is killed when parachute straps of this spacecraft get tangled during landing attempt.

1969 — Jordan's Premier Rashid Karami resigns amid dispute over government's restrictions on Palestinian guerrillas.

1975 — Thousands of Vietnamese refugees are being flown to U.S. island of Guam as Communists move rapidly in their take over of South Vietnam.

1986 — Pre-dawn bomb blast damages British Airways office and other stores on London's busiest shopping street.

1990 — Michael Milken pleades guilty in Wall Street (New York) fraud case and agrees to pay $600 million fine.

1991 — South African government announces it will uphold agreement with African National Congress to free all political prisoners by April 30.

1993 — Commandos break into a cockpit of a commandeered Indian airlines plane, shoot dead the lone hijacker and free all 141 people aboard.

CANDID CAMERA



Photo: Mojtaba Tahin

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1945 — Delegates of 45 nations meet in San Francisco, California, to organize United Nations.

1957 — U.S. sixth fleet sails for eastern Mediterranean as King Hussein proclaims martial law in Jordan and seals frontiers.

1971 — Soviet space ship land safely after docking with an orbiting space laboratory.

1978 — South Africa says it has accepted western plan aimed at preparing south-west Africa for independence under black majority rule.

1986 — Rioting breaks out across Soweto, South Africa's largest black township, following police block of youths protesting arrest of 15 students.

1987 — Sri Lanka military carries out two-pronged offensive against Tamil rebels.

1988 — Afghanistan President Najibullah offers to withdraw Afghan army from posts near Pakistan's border.

1989 — Japan's Prime Minister Noburu Takeshita, rapidly losing popularity amid influence-peddling scandal, says he plans to resign.

[illegible] Things to Do Before I Die

By Wendy Swallow Williams

A FEW WEEKS AGO I followed a friend into an art-supply store. I found him picking out tubes of watercolor paint, which surprised me because he's not an artist.

"I signed up for a watercolor class, and it starts next week," he said sheepishly. "I don't really have time for it, but it was on my list of 50 things to do before I die, so I went for it."

This sounded interesting. "What else is on the list?" I asked.

"All kinds of things," he said. "Every few months I look at the list and decide what to focus on next. Before I had the list, I moaned a lot about what I was missing in my life. Now I just do stuff."

"Can I see your list sometime?" I asked.

"I don't know," he said. "It reveals a lot about me. Write your own list, and you'll see what I mean."

So that night I did just that, and he was right. The list revealed a whole lot about what was important to me. It also revealed how hopelessly behind I am at getting to the things I really want.

Just writing the list helped me sort through priorities. I filled up the first 20 blanks quickly, but then began to think carefully.



Eventually I added items I've thought about for years, dreams I've carried with me since I was young, and things that resonated when I first heard about them. When I reviewed the list later, some entries surprised me.

First, I want to travel much more, particularly now that my children are older and can go with me to see the world. There are ten trips I would like to make with the boys—from biking through Denmark to camping in the Canadian Rockies.

I also was surprised to find some things on the list that need to be done soon. If I'm going to learn to Rollerblade, for instance, I'd better start before I turn 50.

Some items, though, I can put off until I'm older. I would love to grow flowers, to really garden, but while I'm raising kids and working, I don't have time for roses.

I would love to do volunteer work in a hospital nursery someday, rocking crying infants and giving them their first baths. I would like to work with teenagers, leading youth groups or helping at the local high school. If I'm going to do these, though, I may need to reconsider running the bake sale for the school fair each year.

A few of the items are intimidating because they mean a serious commitment of some sort. I would like to publish a novel before I die, and I would like to get a Ph.D. in English literature. I also would like to learn to draw and play piano with a string quartet. If I'm going to accomplish these things, I need to start writing every day and polishing my piano skills.



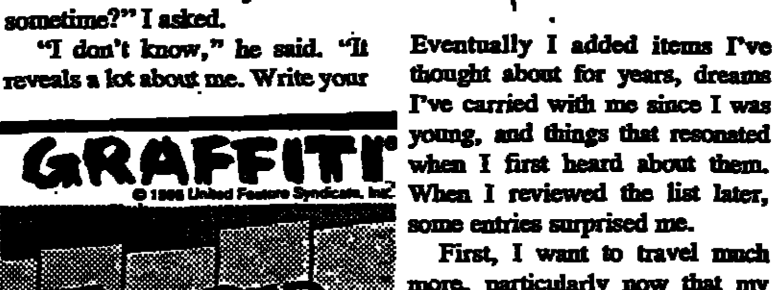
I may not make it through the list. Some things may just be out of reach, such as New Zealand, and others ultimately may not work with the rest of my life, such as owning a horse. Yet I see that I already have built the framework for many of these pipe dreams, and that if I make them goals today, there is no reason I can't find a way to taste at least part of that reality tomorrow.

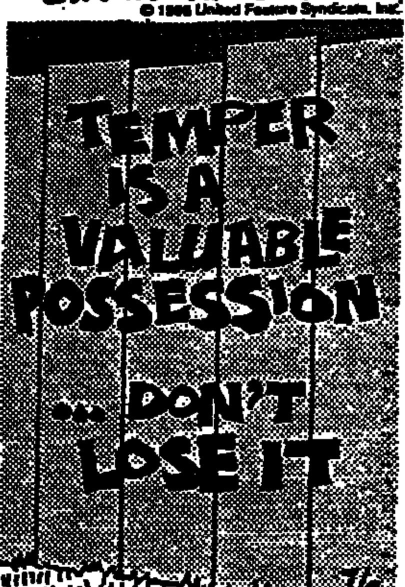
Like my friend, I now have an alternative to complaining. When I'm bored with my life, I take out my list. Maybe I'll send off for travel brochures or take my pencil out in the back yard and doodle around for an hour, trying to sketch trees that look like trees.

I have no idea how the boys and I will get to Africa, but if it's important enough, I'm sure we'll find a way. One of them might grow up to be a zoologist, or I might become a nature writer and get sent on assignment, or maybe we'll just save a few dollars every week till we have enough.

I had a cousin who accomplished an amazing string of interesting things. She once told me the key was preparing so that life could work in mysterious ways. "If you want your ship to come in, you must build a dock," she said.

Thanks to my list, I'm working on some big docks.







WOVEN SILK







Offcuts of shot silk or other fabrics are woven into a landscape of green fields, hedges, yellow corn, blue sky and pink evening sunset. A ready-cut, 3-fold card was used. Mark top left-hand corner inside card with cross. Cut canvas about 10cm (4in) square. Lay card with oval aperture over canvas and mark edges lightly. Rule a square just outside these marks.

Cut stips of fabric approximately 1cm (½in) wide and 12.5cm (5in) long. Do not worry if they fray as this adds to the charm. Thread large tapestry needle and starting from the bottom weave green strips. Continue with yellow fields, hedges and sky.

Attach double-sided tape around oval window and along three sides of panel, as shown. Trim canvas 6mm (¼in) outside the ruled square and peel off backing from double-sided tape. Stick canvas in place and close card — the left side with the cross is the side to fold in. Smooth from folded edge to outside so that card stays flat.



